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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Freedom House reports freedom is on the decline

by Andrew Tully  
RFE/RL Newslines

2007 was a bad year for freedom, according to a prominent rights-advocacy organization that has registered a global decline in political rights and civil liberties for the second consecutive year.

In its annual "Freedom of the World" report released on January 17 the New York-based group Freedom House found that one-fifth of the 193 countries it studied suffered setbacks last year. None of the states that earned the lowest designation, "not free," in 2006 showed any improvement last year, and it was the first time in the report's 15-year history that a two-year decline had been recorded.

The former Soviet republics were among the worst performers, with parliamentary elections late in the year in Russia, rated "not free," highlighting the perilous environment in the region's most influential state.

"It's fair to say that freedom is seriously lacking in this region or unit, that is to say the former Soviet Union," Freedom House Director of Studies Chris Walker told RFE/RL. "Of the 12 non-Baltic former Soviet republics, seven of those are assessed by Freedom House as 'not free,' four are 'partly free,' and one is 'free' [Ukraine]. So, it's a very challenging landscape for freedom in that part of the world."

Belarus, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are among the "worst of the worst" countries in the world in terms of human rights, and are joined on the list of "not free" countries by Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

Two countries looked upon as examples of positive democratic change, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, both rated "partly free," took steps backward — with Russia's influence in obstructing reforms being noted in the case of Kyrgyzstan.

"There were big hopes for Kyrgyzstan and Georgia that if new people came to power, then [the new governments] would apply democratic principles by their actions and pressure [on the opposition] would stop," Ilim Karypbekov, director of the Media Representative Institute in Kyrgyzstan, tells RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service. "However, if you look at Georgia, protest rally participants were beaten up again," Mr. Karypbekov continued. "At the same time, international observer missions showed that the [Georgian presidential] election was held under enormous pressure [on the opposition] and with the use of administrative resources. The same happened in Kyrgyzstan's [early parliamentary elections in December 2007]."

Joining Kyrgyzstan and Georgia among the former Soviet republics considered "partly free" were Armenia and Moldova.

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## Ukraine seeks NATO Membership Action Plan

by Illya M. Labunka  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — "We will be forced to use appropriate measures." That was the Russian Foreign Ministry's initial reaction to Ukraine's latest bid toward European and Trans-Atlantic integration.

President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk on January 15 issued a "Joint Address to the NATO Secretary General" asking that Ukraine join the NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) at the upcoming NATO summit scheduled for April in Bucharest.

The bold foreign policy announcement declaring Ukraine's readiness to advance to the next level of NATO-Ukraine cooperation, which was signed on January 11 but made public on January 15, is a clear sign of Ukraine's long-awaited unified political leadership at the highest levels.

The joint statement issued by Ukraine's top three government officials has drawn praise as well as criticism, both within domestic circles and those abroad.

"Due to the fact that our [Russia's] relations with NATO are very challenging at present, I am not certain the alliance will extend an invitation to Ukraine," stated Dimitri Rogozin, Russia's permanent representative at NATO.

In addition, a country's entry into an international alliance, and particularly a military one, suggests that it is ready to forego part of its sovereignty and relinquish its right to decide issues concerning defense, security, military and foreign policy, cautioned Mr. Rogozin. Mr. Rogozin said he believes that Ukraine's entry into NATO would have a negative effect and would ruin the military manufacturing sector currently in place between Russia and Ukraine.

In a clear indication of Russia's economic and security concerns, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on January 23 indicated that current relations with Ukraine, particularly in the military-industrial sector, would now directly depend on Ukraine's relationship with NATO. "The military-industrial sec-



UNIAN/Oleksander Prokopenko  
Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister Hryhorii Nemyria, speaking at a press conference on January 18, presents the "Joint Address to the NATO Secretary General" signed by President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

tors of both countries have tight relations, because a large number of our plants date back to the Soviet days and manufacture hardware which can only be produced jointly," stated Mr.

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## Ukraine on verge of obtaining WTO membership

by Illya M. Labunka  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine may soon become the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 152nd member state. A final decision regarding Ukraine's membership in the organization is scheduled to take place during the WTO's General Council meeting in Geneva slated for the first week of February.

On January 16, during negotiations in London, the European Union (EU) and Ukraine finalized an agreement on export tariffs, in principle eliminating the last major hurdle between Ukraine and the WTO.

According to EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mendelsohn, since the EU has lifted its last barrier for Ukraine to achieve WTO status, there no longer are any formal legal reasons to impede Ukraine's admission. Ukraine has agreed to reduce the number of existing export tariffs and promised not to increase them in the future, according to Mr. Mendelsohn.

"This is a very historic day, a very important breakthrough, and I want to congratulate the Ukrainian participants

who took part in the negotiations and all of us, with such a successful compromise," said Mr. Mendelsohn.

President Viktor Yushchenko said he is optimistic about Ukraine's imminent admission to the WTO. During a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC), Mr. Yushchenko said that all formal talks regarding the WTO are complete and underscored that he has no doubt that Ukraine will soon receive direct WTO membership.

"This will provide Ukraine's government leaders the opportunity to engage in direct dialogue with members of the global market economy," said the president.

The next necessary step for Ukraine is to engage the EU in negotiations regarding the creation of a free-trade zone, said the president. The preparatory phase of such talks has already been undertaken. Ukraine has a series of questions and issues for discussion, Ukraine has a clear negotiating plan, as well as an official announcement by both the EU and Ukraine as to the timeframe of when such talks will begin, Mr. Yushchenko explained.

"This is a lot of work, which Ukraine must fulfill as part of its overall European integration plan, said Mr. Yushchenko. The president said that Ukraine needs to create an appropriate infrastructure within the government, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and representative offices in various international organizations. "We need to do everything so that all negotiations would be finalized in 2008. This is a key strategy of ours," continued Mr. Yushchenko.

According to the president, Ukraine's membership in the WTO is a legal window of opportunity for Ukraine to engage with the business community on all continents. This will increase the country's GDP and stimulate all sectors of its economy.

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor said he is convinced that Ukraine will soon be a member of the WTO. According to Mr. Taylor, Ukraine's membership in the WTO will steer Ukraine into Europe and will have a positive effect on Ukraine's economy.

Sen. Richard Lugar, the senior

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## ANALYSIS

## Yushchenko strives to dominate government led by Tymoshenko

by Pavel Korduban  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The political honeymoon between Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko appears to be over. Mr. Yushchenko has thwarted Ms. Tymoshenko's planned visit to Moscow, torpedoed planned appointments to her government, disagreed with her privatization plan, and come up with a package of bills aimed at diminishing the role of the prime minister and the Cabinet.

President Yushchenko was weakened by the constitutional reform of December 2004, which made the prime minister and Parliament considerably stronger vis-à-vis the president than under his predecessor, Leonid Kuchma.

Reversing the changes is out of the question, as Mr. Yushchenko has never had the required two-thirds majority in Parliament. However, Mr. Yushchenko has never concealed that he would like to make the presidency stronger, if not by reversing the amendments then by other means, such as exercising control over the prime minister or adopting laws diminishing the Cabinet's powers.

Mr. Yushchenko's tug-of-war with Ms. Tymoshenko's predecessor, Viktor Yanukovich, ended with the September 2007 snap parliamentary election. President Yushchenko had been unable to

boost his powers at the expense of the prime minister because Mr. Yanukovich held the majority in Parliament. Now the situation is different, as Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD) is part of the parliamentary majority, so Mr. Yushchenko can directly influence decision-making in the Verkhovna Rada.

The president has come up with a package of bills aimed at boosting his authority. One of the bills is meant to amend the law on the Cabinet of Ministers that was passed in January 2007 and further diluted presidential powers. If Parliament passes the amendments, the president will be authorized to disagree with the parliamentary majority's choice for prime minister; Parliament will not be allowed to dismiss the ministers of foreign affairs and defense – the only two Cabinet ministers whom the president appoints; the Cabinet will have to obey decisions made by the National Security and Defense Council – a body chaired by the president; and regional governors (as oblast administration chairs are known) – who are appointed by the president – will have the right to veto the Cabinet's appointments to the regional offices of Cabinet ministries.

Mr. Yushchenko wants the internal troops, which have so far been subordi-

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## Tymoshenko and Yushchenko clash over battling corruption

by Taras Kuzio  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has made combating corruption and strengthening the rule of law central elements in her government's policy. She is apparently starting at the highest levels of the government.

The issue of the lack of action against corruption led to a physical showdown on January 18 in the Presidential Secretariat. Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko struck Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi over his alleged involvement in corrupt land schemes. Mr. Lutsenko said afterward, "I have no regrets for this incident and

believe that it was a manly hit that should be undertaken by everybody who wants to live in an honest state."

On December 7, 2007, Mr. Lutsenko and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) National Deputy Sviatoslav Oliinyk introduced a parliamentary resolution to remove Procurator General Oleksander Medvedko. The Rada was set to debate the resolution on January 18, but that was postponed when Mr. Medvedko conveniently checked into a clinic earlier in the week.

While Prime Minister Tymoshenko has backed the call for Mr. Medvedko's replacement, President Viktor Yushchenko has passed responsibility for the decision to Parliament. According to the Constitution, the president puts forward a candidate for procurator general while Parliament has the right to demand a performance report and to follow this with a vote of no confidence.

The draft motion collected 180 signatures out of the 227 members of the pro-democratic Orange coalition, consisting of YTB and Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD). While all YTB deputies signed the resolution, OU-PSD – specifically its pro-grand coalition wing, loyal to the president – is divided.

Mr. Medvedko's job is politically linked to that of Raisa Bohatyriova, the former Party of the Regions parliamentary faction leader appointed secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) on December 24, 2007. Both Mr. Medvedko and Ms. Bohatyriova are from Donetsk, the Party of the Region's stronghold. Stepan Havrysh, legal adviser to the 2004 Yanukovich election campaign, was also appointed deputy head of the NSDC on January 18.

(Continued on page 22)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Deputies' immunity still an issue

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said on January 22 that the Verkhovna Rada during its ongoing session should pass a draft bill abolishing national deputies' immunity from prosecution, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Viacheslav Kyrlylenko of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc and Ivan Kyrlylenko of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) on January 21 submitted the corresponding draft to the Parliament. The annulment of parliamentary immunity must first be approved by a simple majority in the Rada, then confirmed by the Constitutional Court, and finally approved by a two-thirds majority in the 450-seat Parliament. The coalition of the YTB and OU-PSD controls 228 seats in the Verkhovna Rada. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Constitutional Council expanding

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko met on January 22 with leaders of parliamentary factions and called on them to nominate representatives to the National Constitutional Council, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Mr. Yushchenko created the Constitutional Council in December 2007 in order to prepare a new version of the Constitution of Ukraine. The president told the meeting that at least 230 candidates to the council have been proposed so far, including representatives of four parties represented in the Parliament. "The opposition must be involved to the maximum. This is of crucial significance for me," Interfax quoted Mr. Yushchenko as saying. Viktor Yanukovich, leader of the opposition Party of the Regions, said that his party is holding off on nominating its candidates until a meeting with the president. "If we are at the start and if we are beginning to move along this way, our party will undoubtedly participate," Mr. Yanukovich said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Opposition blocs Rada over NATO

KYIV – Opposition parliament deputies from the Party of the Regions and the Communist Party on January 18 blocked the rostrum of the Verkhovna Rada,

demanding that Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk withdraw his signature from Ukraine's request for a NATO Membership Action Plan, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Mr. Yatsenyuk recently sent a letter to NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, formally requesting to take the step toward NATO membership at the NATO summit in Bucharest in April. "This letter initiates the actual procedure of Ukraine's accession to NATO," Nestor Shufrych of the Party of the Regions said, adding that "Ukraine never made any specific decision on this matter." The Party of the Regions also issued a statement describing the request by Ukraine's leaders as "political speculations in the context of future presidential elections." According to the Party of the Regions, the prime minister alone should sign such letters, as well as take responsibility for doing so. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Marchuk: Russia's reaction is important

KYIV – It is impossible to ignore the position of the Russian Federation on Ukraine's membership in NATO, said Yevhen Marchuk, ex-minister of defense and ex-secretary of the National Security and Defense Council in an interview with Radio Liberty. According to news reported on January 18, he noted that current Ukrainian-Russian relations are so complicated and important for Ukraine that it is simply impossible to pretend we do not care about Russia's reaction. "As is known, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will meet with her Russian counterpart Viktor Zubkov soon. I do not know if the question will be discussed, but they both will feel it behind their backs," Mr. Marchuk added. He also noted that it would be best to find a formula for working with Russia that would "at least ease Russia's understanding of why we are doing so" [pursuing NATO membership]. (Ukrinform)

### Poland hails step toward NATO

KYIV – Polish President Lech Kaczynski hailed the address to NATO

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## Corrections

In the story "Peter and Doris Kule create major endowment for Ukrainian Canadian Studies" (December 16, 2007) submitted by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, an errant decimal point resulted in an incorrect report of the contributions made by the Kules. The couple had already given \$11 million (not \$1.1 million) to post-secondary institutions in Edmonton and Ottawa before their latest donation of \$900,000 toward an endowment dedicated to the study of Ukrainians in Canada.

In the news item "Jobs available for immigrants in the Scranton, Pa., area" (January 6), the phone number for William Hubiak was incorrectly listed by the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, which submitted the information. The correct number for Mr. Hubiak is 610-982-5041.

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## NEWS ANALYSIS: Ukraine's top three leaders request NATO Membership Action Plan

by Vladimir Socor

*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

On January 16 Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Parliament Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk made public a joint letter to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, declaring Ukraine's readiness to advance to a Membership Action Plan (MAP) with NATO and requesting a decision to that end by the alliance at its Bucharest summit in early April.

The three Ukrainian leaders' letter states that the country sees itself as part of the Euro-Atlantic security space; is determined to counteract threats to common security alongside NATO countries; and is committed to continuing its participation in NATO-led peacekeeping and anti-terrorist operations. The leaders state that progress already achieved within the NATO-Ukraine Intensified Dialogue constitutes a strong basis for advancing to a MAP.

Citing "deep and irreversible democratic changes [that] enable Ukraine to fulfill all the necessary criteria for NATO membership," the letter assures the alliance that Ukraine would broaden and deepen reforms of the security and defense sector. Furthermore, the government intends to explain the merits of NATO-Ukraine coop-

eration more clearly to the Ukrainian public and significantly increase budget funding for such explanatory efforts. The people of Ukraine will in any case be "consulted [by the leadership] about the question of Ukraine's future membership in NATO."

Based on the country's readiness to undertake "new commitments" in its relationship with the alliance, the three leaders trust that the upcoming summit would approve a decision whereby Ukraine would enter into a Membership Action Plan with NATO ([www.president.gov.ua](http://www.president.gov.ua), January 16).

Elaborating on the letter, the Presidential Secretariat's deputy chief responsible for foreign policy, Oleksander Chalyi, told journalists that the key policy issue involves upgrading the format of NATO-Ukraine relations, after the 2004-2007 Intensified Dialogue has been fully utilized and by now almost exhausted its potential. Mr. Chalyi drew more explicitly than the letter a distinction between membership and the MAP process, which he described as one stage toward the ultimate goal of membership (Interfax-Ukraine, January 16).

Declining to forecast a time frame for attaining that goal, Mr. Chalyi underscored the need to develop internal political support in Ukraine for NATO membership. At

the end of the MAP process, the membership issue will be put to a referendum. "This is the clear position of the president, government and Parliament," Mr. Chalyi said. However, this would be a "consultative" referendum. Mr. Chalyi pointedly noted that joining NATO is a matter for nations, not just leaders or governments. Meanwhile, Ukrainian diplomats are now holding talks with key NATO member-countries to develop support for a MAP decision at the alliance's summit ([www.president.gov.ua](http://www.president.gov.ua), UNIAN, January 16).

The three top leaders actually signed the letter to Mr. de Hoop Scheffer on January 11 (sending it presumably that day), but made it public on January 16 at the end of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar's visit to Ukraine. On January 10 the Tymoshenko-led Cabinet of Ministers announced its own action plan on foreign policy, including an unambiguously stipulated goal of full membership in NATO. However, the government's program also envisages that Ukraine's ultimate decision on membership would be taken "by referendum only" (UNIAN, January 10).

The imminence of NATO's summit clearly precipitated the Ukrainian leaders' letter, as the lead time to the summit is tightening and the allies' ability to work out

a pre-summit consensus on this issue is becoming more problematic. In Ukraine itself, however, the governing coalition of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc took office in December 2007 with a solid internal consensus regarding the goal of NATO membership.

President Yushchenko and his followers had been committed to this goal all along, although the president himself pursued it without consistency or resolve, allowing short-term partisan considerations at times to trump the strategic goal of joining NATO and even decelerating cooperation programs.

For her part, Ms. Tymoshenko embraced that goal late but convincingly during the home run to her second premiership, as stated in the landmark article she wrote for the September-October issue of the U.S. journal *Foreign Affairs* and subsequent pronouncements.

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili's January 5 re-election, and the concurrent plebiscite that shows more than 70 percent Georgian public support for NATO membership, also encouraged the three Ukrainian leaders to send their letter to NATO. In debates within the alliance

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## OSCE chairman meets Ukraine's president for talks on OSCE and regional matters

*Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe*

KYIV – The OSCE chairman-in-office, Finnish Foreign Minister Ilkka Kanerva, met Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on January 16 and congratulated Ukraine on its progress pursuing political reforms and consolidating its democratic system.

Minister Kanerva also added that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was keen to continue to work on practical projects in Ukraine that would support the country.

"The OSCE has a strong track record in Ukraine, and we are happy to assist if requested," said Minister Kanerva, who is on his first visit to a country hosting an OSCE field operation since Finland took over the OSCE chairmanship from Spain on January 1.

The chairman-in-office also met with Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko and said the OSCE stood ready to assist the new Ukrainian government in pursuing further political and econom-

ic reforms.

"Ukraine is ready to move ahead with reforms, and the OSCE looks forward to building on its strong relationship with the government," he said after those talks.

The two-day visit to Ukraine also included meetings with Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Hryhoriy Nemyria and the chairman of Parliament, Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

Minister Kanerva welcomed Ukraine's commitment to the 5+2 negotiating process regarding the Transnistrian settlement and expressed satisfaction that he had heard from Ukrainian officials that he could continue to rely on the country's active engagement. He was to travel to Moldova, including its Transnistria region, for talks there on January 17.

En route from Kyiv to Chisinau, Minister Kanerva was scheduled to visit the headquarters of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) in Odesa. Border management is one of Finland's priorities for its year chairing the OSCE.

## Lutsenko, Chernovetskyi exchange blows at NSDC

KYIV – Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko and Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi on January 18 exchanged blows at a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council dedicated to the discussion of land issues, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

Mr. Chernovetskyi said that Mr. Lutsenko "barbarously attacked" him because of a "loss of control" and "the lack of arguments in a dispute."

Mr. Lutsenko, who at the meeting accused Kyiv's City Council of the "unlawful distribution" of land, said he "gave Chernovetskyi a slap" for slander. According to Mr. Lutsenko, Mr.

Chernovetskyi said at the meeting that Mr. Lutsenko threatened to arrest his son unless he allocated plots of land for police officers.

Kyiv's prosecutor is currently investigating the incident, reported RFE/RL.

According to Ukrinform, on January 21 President Viktor Yushchenko wrote to the procurator general, asking for a study of all circumstances of the incident, and, if necessary, for application of all legal measures against Messrs. Lutsenko and Chernovetskyi.

Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha commented that the incident

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## FOR THE RECORD: "Joint Address to the NATO Secretary General"

Following is the text of the "Joint Address to the NATO Secretary General" signed by President Viktor Yushchenko, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. The letter to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer is dated January 15. It was released by the Press Office of Ukraine's President.

Your Excellency:

Since restoration of its independence in 1991, Ukraine has passed a protracted path of its rapprochement with NATO: from the fruitful cooperation in the framework of the Partnership for Peace program and special relationship in the format of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership to the effective interaction in the framework of the Ukraine-NATO Action Plan and the Intensified Dialogue on membership and relevant reforms.

The Euro-Atlantic integration policy is specified in Ukrainian legislation; it is not directed against third countries, and it is aimed at Ukraine's prospective membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be deliberated with the Ukrainian people.

Fully sharing European democratic values, our state identifies itself as part of the Euro-Atlantic security area and is willing, together with NATO and partners thereof, to counteract common threats to security under equal conditions. It is for this reason that Ukraine will deepen and broaden this trend of its cooperation with the Alliance ensuring continued participation in peacemaking and anti-terrorist operations conducted under the aegis of NATO.

Ukraine is also a reliable partner of the Alliance in its foreign policy, supporting in various formats, specifically in the U.N. and OSCE framework or through accession to the EU position, current approaches concerning solution of outstanding issues of the European and global security.

Ukraine actively interacts with

NATO member-states within the new mechanisms of cooperation in the compliance and implementation of fundamental treaties related to international security. In particular, our state has acceded to the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the G-8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

Ukraine is a recognized regional leader and stands for strengthening regional security, in particular in the BSEC, GUAM, CEI framework – under close cooperation with NATO and the European Union.

Profound and irrevocable democratic transformations have today become the objective prerequisites for resolving critical issues to fully achieve all the criteria required for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Our main priority is deepening large-scale reforms in the political, economic, defense, security, legal and other spheres aimed to enhance democratic institutions, the well-being and security of the Ukrainian people.

Activities aimed at raising in a systematic and resolute manner, public awareness of the broad range of issues of Ukraine's cooperation with NATO continue to be significant. It is envisaged to essentially increase budget allocations to this end in the program of the government.

We hope that the progress achieved by Ukraine in the framework of the Intensified Dialogue on membership and relevant reforms will be recognized by the Alliance in the near future. Currently, Ukraine is interested in accession to the NATO Membership Action Plan.

We expect that the level of our state's readiness for new commitments will become the basis for a positive response at the forthcoming Ukraine-NATO summit in Bucharest in April 2008.

## OBITUARY: Boris Baczynskyj, 62, internationally known chess master, journalist

PHILADELPHIA – Boris Baczynskyj, an internationally known FIDE (World Chess Federation) Master, popular local chess instructor and journalist, died suddenly on January 16. He was 62.

Mr. Baczynskyj was born in Vienna, Austria, to the late Dr. Wolodymyr and Maria Sodomora Baczynskyj. He was a longtime resident of Philadelphia, attending grammar school and graduating from St. Joseph's Preparatory School. He went on to earn a B.A. in political science from Yale University.

After graduation Mr. Baczynskyj served with the Peace Corps in Thailand and later remained in Cambodia, working as a free-lance journalist for UPI, Far Eastern Economic Review and other publications.

After Cambodia was overrun by the Khmer Rouge, Mr. Baczynskyj returned to the United States and immersed himself in the world of chess, competing actively in national and international tournaments. At one point, he was the third-ranked chess player in the U.S. He also served as editor of one of the major national chess publications, Chess Life, and was chess advisor for the world's largest manufacturer of computer chess products, Fidelity International.

He became a well-known chess tutor, instructor and commentator. He co-authored "Computer Chess II" with Charles Welsh (Wm. C. Brown, 1985), annotated the games of various Chess Masters, including Bobby Fischer, and worked on the third "Sargon Manual" (Hayden Software Co.). In addition, he wrote theoretical and instructional articles

on chess and computerized chess.

As a chess instructor, he tirelessly taught and promoted chess, especially to children in private and public schools. Mr. Baczynskyj provided many simultaneous chess exhibitions in venues such as schools, shopping malls and public fairs. He deeply cared about his young students and celebrated their achievements, such as during the Philadelphia schools (Benjamin Franklin High and Vaux Junior High) chess teams' trip to Yugoslavia.

During the early years of Ukrainian independence, Mr. Baczynskyj again worked as a journalist for a few years in Kyiv, and his articles were published by Intelnews, Cox Publishers and The Ukrainian Weekly. He returned to Philadelphia and continued his teaching, writing, lecturing and chess promotion. He was an active member of the Franklin Mercantile Chess Club.

In his youth Mr. Baczynskyj belonged to Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and was a member of its "Burlaky" fraternity. He was active in Ukrainian American chess life, belonged to the Chess Club of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) and participated in Ukrainian American tournaments, winning championships several times.

His personal values were reflected in his lifelong promotion of civil rights. During his college days, he participated in several protests supporting racial integration and was once even caught up in a mass arrest during a protest march in St. Petersburg, Fla. He promoted the concept of "equal rights for all" to his community



**Boris Baczynskyj (left) playing against international chess master Oles Sulypa on June 30, 1991, at the Lviv Chess Palace during a team match between the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, playing under the U.S. flag, and the Lviv Chess Club, playing under the Ukrainian flag. Mr. Baczynskyj won the game.**

by translating "We Shall Overcome" into Ukrainian. Surprisingly, it became the theme song at Plast's camp in East Chatham, N.Y., during one summer in the 1960s.

His anti-war convictions during the Vietnam era led him to organize a march on the American Embassy in Thailand to protest President Richard Nixon's secret bombing of Cambodia.

Mr. Baczynskyj is survived by his two sisters, Wawa and Ulana.

Funeral services were scheduled to be

held on Saturday, January 26, at 2 p.m. with family greeting friends at 1 p.m. at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1013 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Services were to be followed by burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in Elkins Park, PA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to: USCAK-Chess, c/o Nasevich Funeral Home, 9529 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia PA 19115; phone, 215-673-8153. The family may also be contacted through the Nasevich Funeral Home.

## OBITUARY: Ivan Batisko, 36, community activist of Fourth Wave

by Alexander Kuzma

HARTFORD, Conn. – For the Ukrainian community of Greater Hartford, the joy of the Christmas holidays was dampened this year by the passing of a dear friend and colleague, Ivan Batisko, who died at the very young age of 36 during a vacation in Florida.

Mr. Batisko emigrated to the United States just 10 years ago, and he was one of the most prominent members of a vibrant Fourth Wave of immigrants that have helped to revitalize the Ukrainian community in Connecticut.

A native of the Ternopil region, "Ivas" was a fervent patriot and an innately gifted community organizer who could always be counted on to mobilize his friends for any community event, concert, "zabava" (dance) or political rally.

During the tense days that followed the November elections of 2004, Mr. Batisko reminded the community that Ukraine was not lacking idealistic and committed young activists like himself who would work to ensure the eventual triumph of the pro-democracy forces. He will always be remembered for signature moments like the raw and sleet-drizzled Saturday at the Connecticut State Capitol when Ukrainian Americans rallied in support of the Orange Revolution. Mr. Batisko drove up to the Capitol steps with an enormous Ukrainian flag billowing out of his Volkswagen window. The moment was not lost on the local television crews that had come out to cover the event and it helped to provide at least some spiritual warmth for a slew of young children and teenagers who stood shivering through the speeches and the candlelight vigil.

Mr. Batisko was one of the charter members of the Krayany, a new organiza-

tion that organized social events designed to help integrate recent émigrés into Ukrainian community life.

Thanks in large part to the creative energy and involvement of the Krayany, the Hartford area has seen a resurgence of old traditions like the Christmas street theater – "vertep." The Krayany have also provided a critical infusion of new blood for several institutions, including the Ukrainian studies school and the statewide dance ensemble Zolotyj Promin. They have also helped to launch the New Britain Ukrainian Festival.

Mr. Batisko was an incredibly hard worker, a devoted husband and father to his newborn daughter, Anastasia. Despite his many commitments to family and friends, and despite his growing managerial duties as he rose through the ranks of the Connecticut Resource Recovery Center, Mr. Batisko always found the time to support Ukrainian causes and to help any friend in need.

Most of all he will be sorely missed as a fun-loving, nattily dressed bon vivant, a bundle of nervous human energy who could enliven any social gathering with his good humor and his eagerness to strike up a song.

Some of Mr. Batisko's closest friends thought of skipping this year's New Year's Eve Dance at Hartford's Ukrainian National Home, as it came so soon after his untimely death. But, on second thought, they could think of no better way to honor his indomitable spirit than to attend the very kind of event that he loved most. Many thought they could still feel his presence in the hall. One woman said, "It was as if I could actually see him there, in the middle of the festivities."

Mr. Batisko's earthly remains are to be returned to Ukraine for burial.

## Ukrainian Canadian leaders meet with Verkhovna Rada chairman

BANFF, Alberta – Newly elected Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) President Paul Grod met with Arseniy Yatsenyuk, chairman of Ukraine's Parliament, against the backdrop of Canada's Rocky Mountains in Banff, Alberta on January 5.

Mr. Yatsenyuk took time out of his Canadian ski vacation to meet for several hours with Mr. Grod and Zenon Potoczny, president of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce. The discussion was facilitated by Ihor Ostash, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada.

"During our highly engaging discussion we covered a wide variety of topics, including the challenges facing the newly elected speaker in leading Ukraine's new Parliament, concrete steps to developing closer relations between Canada and Ukraine, the recognition of the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people and the internment of Ukrainians during Canada's first national internment operation," stated Mr. Grod.

"Ukraine is beyond the phase in its development of seeking aid from Canada, rather we are looking to engage in a mutually beneficial and constructive bilateral and multilateral partnership with Canada," stated Mr. Yatsenyuk. "And we expect to underscore this intention with a visit to Canada by Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko in the late spring of 2008."

The Verkhovna Rada chairman made a personal commitment to work with the UCC in establishing a parliamentary internship program for Canadian students in Ukraine's Parliament.

"This will form part of a larger youth initiative which will be launched early this year, whereby the UCC will develop a variety of internship opportunities for Canadian youth in both Canada and Ukraine. This aspect of UCC's Youth Development Initiative will provide young Canadians with domestic and international experience in government and international affairs," stated Mr. Grod.



**At their meeting in Banff, Alberta (from left) are: Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce President Zenon Potoczny, Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Paul Grod, and Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Ihor Ostash.**



# “Freedom in the World 2008” report: global freedom in retreat

Freedom House

WASHINGTON – The year 2007 was marked by a notable setback for global freedom, Freedom House reported in a worldwide survey of freedom released on January 16.

The decline in freedom, as reported in “Freedom in the World 2008,” an annual survey of political rights and civil liberties worldwide, was reflected in reversals in one-fifth of the world’s countries. Most pronounced in South Asia, it also reached significant levels in the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa.

A substantial number of politically important countries whose declines have broad regional and global implications – including Russia, Pakistan, Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria, and Venezuela – were affected.

“This year’s results show a profoundly disturbing deterioration of freedom worldwide,” said Arch Puddington, director of research at Freedom House. “A number of countries that had previously shown progress toward democracy have regressed, while none of the most influential ‘not free’ states showed signs of improvement. As the second consecutive year that the survey has registered a global decline in political rights and civil liberties, friends of freedom worldwide have real cause for concern.”

While the profile of world freedom as measured by the number of countries designated in Freedom in the World as “free,” “partly free” or “not free” changed little during the past year, there were many negative changes within these broad categories. In all, nearly four times as many countries showed declines during the year as registered improvement.

Many of the countries that moved backward were already designated “not free” by the survey. The past year saw the intensification of an effort by authoritarian regimes – Egypt and Pakistan are two examples – to consolidate power through the suppression of democratic opposition, civil society and independent media in their own societies. Especially important in carrying out this assault on freedom of association was a group of market-oriented autocracies and energy-rich dictatorships, including Russia, Iran, Venezuela and China.

Not one of the countries that registered the lowest possible scores in the Freedom House index – the “worst of the worst” – exhibited signs of improvement. This represents a break from a trend formerly observable even in past years when world freedom stagnated or declined, in which progress was registered in some of the world’s most tightly controlled dictatorships.

Just as concerning, countries that had made progress toward freedom in recent years took significant steps backwards. In Asia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines all saw declines in their ratings. In the Middle East, hopes for movement forward in Palestine and Lebanon were dampened by negative trends in the last



year in both countries. The deterioration within Nigeria and Kenya, two of Africa’s most important countries, should be of great concern for those who had hoped that the incremental gains of recent years would continue. Two countries that had “color” revolutions in past years – Kyrgyzstan and Georgia – also saw disturbing declines.

Jennifer Windsor, executive director of Freedom House, urged supporters of freedom to redouble their efforts to support freedom’s advocates and activists in other societies. “Right now, authoritarian regimes have been able to use their influence to slow freedom’s advance and, in some cases, reverse positive progress. Democratic governments have not worked together effectively to counter these trends. Those who support freedom – both governments as well as non-governmental actors – must get serious and redouble their efforts to support the frontline defenders of democracy who are under duress,” said Ms. Windsor.

## Global findings

- The number of countries judged by “Freedom in the World” as Free in 2007 stood at 90, representing 46 percent of the global population. The number of “free” countries did not change from the previous year’s survey.

- The number of countries qualifying as “partly free” stood at 60, or 18 percent of the world population. The number of “partly free” countries increased by two from the previous year, as Thailand and Togo both moved from

“not free” to “partly free.”

- Forty-three countries were judged “not free,” representing 36 percent of the global population. The number of “not free” countries declined by two from 2006. One territory, the Palestinian Authority, declined from “partly free” to “not free.”

- The number of electoral democracies dropped by two and totals 121. One country, Mauritania, qualified to join the world’s electoral democracies in 2007. Developments in three countries – Philippines, Bangladesh and Kenya – disqualified them from the electoral democracy list.

## Regional patterns

A number of Asia’s most important countries, many on the Indian subcontinent, suffered setbacks in freedom during 2007. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka all experienced downturns due to increased restrictions on civil society and, in three of the four cases, increased military activity. Declines were also noted in the Philippines, Burma and Malaysia. A positive development in the region was the improvement of Thailand from “not free” to “partly free” due to the holding of elections by year’s end.

In the formerly Communist countries of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan – all countries with entrenched authoritarian leaderships and growing energy wealth – registered declines in 2007. Former democratic aspirants Georgia and Kyrgyzstan also moved backwards in 2007. In contrast, however, the countries of Eastern and Central Europe continued to move ahead with the process of democratic consolidation. Poland showed a modest gain, while Latvia and Bosnia and Herzegovina registered slight declines.

The period of modest gains that had marked the political landscape of the Middle East in the post-9/11 period came to an end in 2007. Backward movement was registered in three important countries of the Arab Middle East: Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. Major declines were also noted in both the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli-Occupied Territories. Tunisia, long one of the region’s most repressive states, also experienced a further decline in political rights in 2007.

While sub-Saharan Africa has made incremental if uneven progress in the last several years, 2007 saw an overall deterioration of freedom on the continent. Fifteen countries registered reversals, while six countries marked improvements. Togo moved from “not free” to “partly free,” and Mauritania was designated an electoral democracy this year. Two countries that were conflict zones, Cote d’Ivoire and Sierra Leone, showed major improvements, as did Mozambique and Rwanda. However, political manipulation of ethnic tensions and intolerance by many of the region’s leaders were important factors in the declines of a number of countries, including Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria. Mali and Niger registered

## Global Trends in Freedom

Year Under Review	Free Countries	Partly Free Countries	Not Free Countries
1977	43 (28%)	48 (31%)	64 (41%)
1987	58 (35%)	58 (34%)	51 (30%)
1997	61 (42%)	57 (30%)	53 (28%)
2007	90 (47%)	60 (31%)	43 (22%)

(Continued on page 11)

## Freedom House reports,..

(Continued from page 1)

The best of the bunch is Ukraine, which Mr. Walker said remains “free” because it has competing factions with well-defined positions, and a population that accepts the results of well-conducted elections.

Democracy in Georgia, rated “partly free,” suffered in 2007 due to President-elect Mikheil Saakashvili’s ability to dominate the political scene. The imposition of a state of emergency and a violent police crackdown on opposition rallies late in the year served to highlight the country’s problems, according to Freedom House, but Mr. Walker notes that there is room for vocal dissent in the country.

Russia is a different matter altogether, according to Mr. Walker.

“2007 was a pivotal year for authoritarian consolidation in Russia in part due to the manipulated parliamentary elections in December, and the managed succession process which really revealed itself by the end of the year where it became very clear that there would not be an opportunity for ordinary Russians to have an open and fair

Andrew Tully is an RFE/RL correspondent based in Washington. RFE/RL correspondent Nikola Krastev interviewed Freedom House’s Christopher Walker.

selection of their next president,” Mr. Walker noted.

A man in Nizhny Novgorod, who requested anonymity, told RFE/RL’s Russian Service that “I’ve never been to other countries, so I can’t say how the situation in our country is different from theirs. But, compared to the Soviet Union, I don’t see any radical changes.”

“We never had freedom even though they tried to create it in the 1990s,” the man added. “What we are left with now, at least in my opinion, is a semblance of freedom.”

A man in Yekaterinburg, meanwhile, told the service that freedoms in Russia cannot be compared with those in European countries. “I think we’re at the level of Central Asian countries where rights and freedoms basically exist on paper but in reality [are not upheld],” he commented. “The presidential election campaign has exceeded all limits because there is a cult of personality, and that is taking us back to the past.”

Of the former Communist countries of Eastern and Central Europe, most advanced on the road to freedom, according to the report. Only Latvia (rated “free”) and Bosnia (rated “partly free”) showed signs of moving backward during 2007.

Aneta Grosu, editor-in-chief of the weekly investigative magazine Ziarul de Garda, described the situation in Moldova, which retained its “partly free” rating.

“Year by year it is more difficult with freedoms in Moldova: with press freedom, freedom of different opinions, human rights,” Ms. Grosu told RFE/RL’s Romania-Moldova Service. “And for us, journalists, it is more and more difficult to do our job in these circumstances. Access to information is more limited, there is tougher punishment for what the authorities call libel, sometimes we face threats or acts of revenge from people we write about.”

The report characterized Iran as “not free” and called it a “dictatorship,” accusing it of not only suppressing the rights of its people, but also of imposing its influence on other countries through the support of Muslim militants.

Iraq, too, is rated “not free” because it has limited freedom, given the persistent sectarian fighting between Shi’ite and Sunni Muslims that poisons daily life in much of the country.

Mr. Walker explained that Freedom House’s says the annual report is meant to be studied by all those with influence in the countries that are rated, from government officials to members of the local news media. The point: to spark debate about how freedoms can be improved.

Sometimes, however, governments react with hostility, Mr. Walker said, again pointing to Russia as an example.

The work of non-governmental organiza-

tions, including Freedom House, has been increasingly scrutinized in Russia, which argues that some countries use such entities work to spread their influence in Russia.

Recently Russia opened branches of its own Institute of Democracy and Cooperation in Paris and New York, with the intention of improving Russia’s image abroad.

The organization’s chairman, Anatoly Kucherena, recently told The Moscow Times that the Institute of Democracy and Cooperation has “no desire to copy the behavior of organizations like Freedom House... which has only one goal: to publish data which was assembled using methodologies that nobody understands, in order to draw attention to themselves.”

Mr. Walker said that “attacks on our findings” aren’t based on the substance of the report. And, he says, too often governments criticized in the report fail to debate such findings with the country’s opposition.

“The local civil society in the country like Russia should have a right to talk about these findings without fear of reprisal and the hope is that it will help identify areas of concern, areas where there are problems, areas where there are possibilities for improvement so that domestic institutions can take the steps to make those improvements,” Mr. Walker noted. “I think that ultimately is the fundamental hope here.”

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Say "yes" to Ukraine

In a significant step toward membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Ukraine's leaders on January 15 issued a "Joint Address to the NATO Secretary General" stating that Ukraine is seeking a Membership Action Plan (MAP). Kyiv hopes to receive the MAP at the alliance's next summit scheduled for April in Bucharest, wrote President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

A MAP would be the next logical step in Ukraine's developing relationship with NATO, which began with Ukraine joining the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1991 and the Partnership for Peace program in 1994, and then moved on to a Distinctive Partnership (1997), the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan (2002) and an Intensified Dialogue (2005). To be sure, a MAP does not guarantee membership, but it does spur further Euro-Atlantic integration, with all that integration entails, including internal reform as a country strives to meet NATO standards.

Poland was among the first to speak in support of Ukraine's bid for a MAP, with President Lech Kaczynski stating on January 17: "Ukraine is part of Western civilization and should take part in its political, economic and military cooperation, as well as integration."

In Davos, Switzerland, during the World Economic Forum, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on January 23 indicated Washington's support for Ukraine's NATO bid. According to a report by Reuters, an unidentified U.S. official traveling with the secretary of state was cited as saying after Dr. Rice met with President Yushchenko, "The secretary reiterated the U.S. view that NATO should leave the door open to those European, democratic states who meet membership requirements." The Reuters story added that the U.S. position was "likely to anger Russia."

Indeed, Russia has already made threatening comments in reaction to Ukraine's move. The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that "Ukraine's possible integration into NATO will seriously worsen the long-term Russian-Ukrainian relations. We will be forced to use the adequate measures." Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov added that "future cooperation between Russia and Ukraine depends to a large extent on how [Ukraine's movement toward NATO membership] develops." Verkhovna Rada Chair Yatsenyuk quite correctly replied to these grumblings from Russia that the two countries' relations should be "based solely on mutual respect and non-interference in our sovereign rights."

Mr. Lavrov also stated on January 23 that there is no security justification for NATO's enlargement and that expansion plans are a throwback to the Cold War. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry, meanwhile, said its accession to NATO would be a "broadening" of "the zone of stability and security in Europe to the south and to the east," and the U.S. secretary of state characterized talk of a new Cold War as "hyperbolic nonsense."

The truth of the matter is that Ukraine has been moving all along toward Euro-Atlantic integration, albeit with fits and starts. It has participated in many NATO programs, has contributed troops to NATO peacekeeping and anti-terrorism operations, and has supported NATO policy in a variety of formats. It has conducted free and fair elections and is rated as "free" by Freedom House – rating the best among the group of countries once part of the USSR. Today, Ukraine's intentions are clearer than ever. Therefore, Ukraine deserves an upgrade in its relationship with NATO. Granting Ukraine a MAP now will serve to encourage Ukraine, and Ukrainians, to move more quickly toward the West.

To Ukraine, we say: Finally. Ukraine's executive and legislative branches of government are in agreement on a plan of action.

To Russia, we say: Get over it. Ukraine is independent and is pursuing an independent foreign policy.

To NATO, we say: Give Ukraine the green light. This strategic country – which has made great progress since its renewed independence more than 16 years ago – has earned a Membership Action Plan.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Cancer survivor lives to help others in Ukraine

by Ira Gavisheva

In 1997 my life split into two parts: "before" and "after." I'd spent three weeks in the children's hospital's oncology unit. How could just three weeks radically alter the life of a 13-year-old girl? Those seemingly endless 21 days turned my life upside down. I knew my life would never be the same.

It was a cruel lesson of destiny. I don't know why God chose me to experience such a nightmare. Maybe it was done so that many years later I could tell healthy people that hell exists, that it's here on earth, in the oncology unit of a children's hospital. Or, maybe I survived that hell so that I could help people understand the world in which hundreds of Ukrainian children live: a world full of fear and sorrow but also of hope and faith, and to challenge the public to look beyond mere statistics at the children's lives those numbers represent.

In these memories, I have tried to record the moments that I remember best: moments that impressed me and moments that shocked me. These are moments I had kept silent about for seven years because I lacked the strength to relive them even mentally.

Two excerpts follow – the first from 1997, the other from 1998.

#### The address book

"Natasha, do people often die here?" I asked. We were sitting in her room in the Zaporizhia Regional Children's Hospital oncology unit. She was battling Hodgkins lymphoma and had just relapsed for the third time. Only a bone marrow transplant could save her and, at the time, no doctor in Ukraine was performing them.

"Look here," said Natasha as she pulled a thick address book out of her bedside table. I saw it was well used. "I've been writing down the names and addresses of friends I've met in the hematology departments of various hospitals. I started the day I got sick."

I took the address book. It was two-thirds full. There were lots of names and addresses. Turning to the first page, I saw all the names had been crossed out; the same on the second page, and the third.

"This ..." I couldn't continue.

"Yes, all of these kids have died," Natasha explained, taking the book back. She began thumbing through it. I noticed that on page after page most of the names had been crossed out.

"How can you live with this?" I wanted to know. For me, just seeing the list of children who'd died of cancer was very painful. And I hadn't known any of them. I was convinced the death rate from cancer among children in Zaporizhzhia had to be excessive.

"I live thanks to this," Natasha said, tapping her finger on one boy's name. His was the only name not crossed out on the first six pages. "This boy lived through two relapses of leukemia – but he's fine now and has been for three years. He goes to school. He's happy. I live because I believe that I will be just as lucky. There are others." She quickly flipped over several pages, pointing to some names and addresses that also were not crossed out.

"But these are the exceptions," I pointed out. "Most have died." Until then, I'd had no idea of the extent of the tragedy.

"If it weren't for these individuals, it wouldn't be worth the struggle, Ira," Natasha continued. "Do you know how badly I want to believe that I can lick this

disease? Do you realize how painful it is for me to visualize my name being crossed out of dozens of such address books?"

Exactly two months later, I crossed Natasha's name and address out of my own.

#### Set the soul free

A white sheet covered the room's glass door – an unwelcome reminder that someone inside was very ill. It was late at night, but the light was still on. A woman's silhouette could be seen through the sheet. She was sitting beside her daughter's bed. Sometimes her head dropped to her chest. She'd not slept for many nights. Eventually, she nodded off but woke again almost immediately. "I must not sleep. I must not sleep," she kept repeating to herself, horrified that she'd dozed off, even for a couple of seconds.

The child was deathly ill. She was dying from respiratory failure and had been unable to swallow for the past two weeks. The doctors had decided her tumor was inoperable. They'd suggested a deadly dose of hypnotic medication "to set the soul free" as they told Natasha, the child's mother. The doctor termed it "an easy way to end the child's suffering."

Natasha had refused. She still hoped her daughter would be better soon. It was this hope that enabled her to sit by her daughter's bed day after day, night after night.

Due to a lack of oxygen, the girl was only semi-conscious. She alternately slept and groaned. She rarely spoke; it required too much strength, which she no longer had. The previous week, deeming her case terminal, the doctors had ordered the discontinuation of all life support. Her IV had promptly been disconnected. Now the girl was suffering not only from shortness of breath but also from thirst. Even in her sleep, she was heard to whisper, "water, water." According to her mom, just the sound of running water made her daughter cry.

That particular night, the girl was barely breathing. Again and again, she'd stop for 10 or 15 seconds, then begin again. Natasha kept her eyes glued to her daughter's chest, praying that even the slightest movements would continue. Then as she watched, her daughter sighed painfully and began turning blue. She'd stopped breathing.

Natasha knew what to do. She hopped off her chair and immediately began performing artificial respiration. She didn't call for help. It would have been a waste of time, time she couldn't afford to lose. The department's head doctor had prohibited the use of all artificial life support.

In developed countries this is called "passive euthanasia" and is illegal unless specifically requested by the patient in writing. In Ukraine it's referred to as "setting the soul free."

Instead, Natasha performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. She breathed air in and out, in and out, in and out, still convinced her daughter would make it. After 10 minutes, the girl took a couple of breaths. But a half hour later, she stopped breathing again. Natasha resumed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, refusing to let dizziness and nausea hamper her efforts. Until her daughter was able to breathe on her own, she had to keep going. Fainting, even falling down was out of the question; she knew what that would mean.

For several hours, Natasha fought to save her daughter's life. Then, when her daughter finally opened her eyes, she saw her pain. "Mom, leave me alone," the girl whis-

(Continued on page 20)

Jan  
29  
1918

### Turning the pages back...

Ninety years ago, on January 29, 1918, a contingent of approximately 500 young men commanded by Capt. Ahapii Honcharenko, attempted to block the advance of Mikhail Murav's 4,000-strong Bolshevik unit on Kyiv. The battle occurred at Kruty, a village located in Nizhen county in the

Chernihiv Oblast.

The Ukrainian force was hastily assembled, consisting mainly of a company from the Student Battalion of Sich Riflemen, a company of the Khmelnytsky Cadet School and a Haidamaka detachment of the army of the Ukrainian National Republic.

In five hours the Bolshevik force mowed down half of the armed students, but their resistance was pivotal in the delay of the Bolshevik's capture of Kyiv and enabled the Ukrainian government to conclude the Peace Treaty at Brest-Litovsk.

For decades the battle at Kruty has been commemorated as a symbol of patriotic self-sacrifice.

In 2006 President Viktor Yushchenko dedicated the Kruty Heroes Monument in the village of Kruty. The monument is a 10-meter red column sitting atop a 7-meter hill and includes a chapel and a cross-shaped pool.

Many have called the battle of Kruty Ukraine's Thermopylae, a reference to the battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC, which was chronicled by Herodotus. At Thermopylae the vastly outnumbered Greek forces held off the invading Persians for three days. The story of the battle has been an inspiration for many through the ages and is considered one of history's most famous last stands.

Like Thermopylae, Kruty, remains a symbol of courage against overwhelming odds.

Source: "The Battle of Kruty," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 2 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remembering Osela's meaning

Dear Editor:

As I read the story about the intended sale of Osela at Round Lake (January 6), I was struck by deep nostalgia and vivid memories of this wonderful place that was so important to hundreds of newly arrived Ukrainian families to Chicago. Since most of our mothers worked, summer months were a problem in terms of what to do with the children and their free time. There was no day care in those days. Therefore, a group of caring parents – my father Oleksander Nahorniak among them – organized and purchased the property at Round Lake.

Osela was, first and foremost, a place to hold summer Plast camps for children, and recreational activities for families on weekends. Since few families had cars, the first “tabir” (camp) started with busloads of kids leaving to spend the entire summer in this magical place. This was the beginning of “plastuvannia” (Plast activity) for us, along with sports, swimming in the wonderful lake, romances, break-ups and the roots of lasting friendships.

We all spoke Ukrainian, since we had not yet mastered English. Some wonderful talents were displayed every weekend as we sat around the “vatra” (bonfire). We sang everything: from patriotic songs and ballads to our made-up “kolomyiky,” which were brilliant. Our skits were creative, funny and entertaining. Parents arrived, mostly by bus, on the weekends, bringing goodies and clean clothes, and

we couldn't wait for the week to begin again so we could continue our activities and events.

For many years these camps gave us our Ukrainian foundation, keeping our language, culture and heritage alive. I learned so much during all those years spending summers at Round Lake. As time passed, Osela's role changed and it became a weekend getaway for the large Ukrainian community of Chicagoland.

I left Chicago almost 42 years ago, but the memories remain vivid. I see many friends, who are now scattered across the country, as we meet at Soyuzivka, Wildwood, weddings and, sadly, at funerals. We always find a way to go back and reminisce about the carefree days at Osela, and everything Round Lake meant and gave to us.

**Myroslawa Hrab (née Nahorniak)**  
West Orange, N.J.

### “Liquid smoke” and our borsch

Dear Editor:

If Emily Robbins (“A Brooklyn chef delights in creating gourmet borsch,” January 6) is considering visiting Ukraine to sample the borsch, I suggest that she bring with her the “liquid smoke” she uses as an ingredient, because I don't believe she will be able to find it anywhere in Ukraine.

**I. Dzerovych**  
Amherst, N.H.

### We welcome your opinion

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

Please note: THE LENGTH OF LETTERS CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS.

## IN THE PRESS

### A strategy for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration

“Strategy and tactics of Euro-Atlantic integration,” by Taras Kuzio (Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University), Hryhoriy Perepylytsya (Foreign Policy Research Institute, Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine) and Walter Zaryckyj (New York University and Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations), *Kyiv Post*, January 9:

“Ukraine has a strong possibility of completing its integration into Trans-Atlantic and European structures within the next decade. In the short term the following steps need to be taken:

“1. Coordinate a MAP and NATO membership with Georgia bilaterally and through GUAM and the U.S.

“2. Ukraine should have a large delegation of policy advisers, government and presidential officials, parliamentary

deputies, journalists and NGO leaders at the April 2008 NATO Bucharest summit. There should not be a repeat of the November 2006 Riga NATO summit attended by only three Ukrainians (including only one official).

“3. The Ukraine-NATO Committee NGO, to be officially launched by ourselves [sic] in January 2008 with members drawn from Ukraine, Europe and North America, is open to membership by all NGOs and individuals who support Ukraine's Trans-Atlantic aspirations. The Ukraine-NATO Committee will lobby for Ukraine's NATO membership and coordinate the work of a disparate group of NGOs, practitioners and journalists who support its aims and objectives.

“4. Ukraine's presidential, government and parliamentary elites have the opportunity to establish a cross-party and cross-regional consensus in support of a

(Continued on page 19)

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### DP: a label from the past

DP – in the 1950s I heard those initials all the time. They burned like acid, hurled by playground bullies and the occasional mean-spirited adult who made a point of telling me I was different, unwanted, unwelcome and inferior. I was an immigrant: a displaced person, a DP.

And not only me: nearly everyone my age or older in my community was born somewhere across the ocean: places like Wildflecken, Aschaffenburg, Villach, Krakow, Lviv, Kolomyia, Sniatyn and a hundred towns and villages which most Americans found as unpronounceable as my name. And me? I was born in Innsbruck, Austria; I was 8 months old when we came to America, a nation of immigrants.

Growing up on Cleveland's South Side, my friends and I were different. On weekends, evenings and for one month during the summer, we lived in the Ukrainian world where we spoke one language; the rest of the time we were in America, where we spoke another. The two worlds existed in the same physical space, but were continents apart. Awkwardness, pain even, came where they intersected. Never worse than the time my fifth grade teacher lambasted me for being absent on January 7 for Ukrainian Christmas. Andy cut school, she announced to the class. That was going on my permanent record and I would be forever barred from acceptance to any major American university.

That experience, I've learned since, was hardly novel or unique. America has a long tradition of nativism. In the 1850s the Know Nothing Party fanned popular fears that the country was being overwhelmed by Irish Catholics, people hostile to America and loyal only to the pope and his agent, the parish priest. A generation later, Chinese “coolies,” who had built the Transcontinental Railroad, were targets. Unless stopped, they would take over the country, so in 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. Immediately after World War I, the Justice Department deported “alien subversives” without trial. In World War II, Japanese Americans were confined to internment camps. And so on...

I reflect on all this because 2008 is the 60th anniversary of the Displaced Persons Act, which opened the door to America for more than 400,000 DPs, including 100,000 Ukrainians.

World War II, of course, was a catastrophe for many peoples, including Ukrainians, 8 million of whom died in the war and another 2 million forced to work as slaves in the German economy. When the war ended, they along with millions of others were relocated to displaced persons camps in Austria and Germany. Tragically, huge numbers of people were repatriated to the Soviet Union, where they were executed or sent to the gulag to continue as slaves. For others, though, the 1948 act was a lifeline.

First a trickle and then a stream of refugees came to America. There were those, to be sure, who sneered at the displaced persons – the DPs – but the benevolent relative and generous neighbor were much more common, opening their wallets and hearts to the people who had suffered so much and then lost everything that had been familiar before the war displaced and then tossed them half a continent and an ocean away.

In 1944 the Ukrainian American com-

munity, made up of people whose own families had immigrated to America a generation or two earlier and had also suffered from discrimination (they were the “green-horns”) organized the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee to deal with the flood of refugees. Raising money and organizing sponsors, the UUARTC ultimately helped 100,000 refugees settle in the United States. It helped additional thousands find new homes in South America, Australia and Canada. As part of that effort, the UUARTC lobbied Congress to pass the Displaced Persons Act of 1948. A young Irishman from Cleveland, Michael Feighan, was on the House Judiciary Committee and worked hard for the bill's passage.

It's one of the ironies of American history that anti-immigrant attitudes serve to strengthen immigrant communities. The Irish, for example, once disdained as illiterate brawlers turned an insult into a badge of honor. At Notre Dame – my alma mater – all of us regardless of our ethnic backgrounds were proud to be the “Fighting Irish.”

As for my friends and me, Saturday mornings we went to Ukrainian classes (DP school) and then in the afternoon played a mean game of basketball at the Lincoln Bathhouse against other neighborhood pick-up teams, most of them organized on the basis of one kind of ethnicity or another. You held the court as long as you won.

Having become citizens, our parents got into another game. Rep. Feighan, along with others, would address audiences of the very people he had helped come to America and reminded them of the good work he was doing on behalf of Ukraine. Afterward, “Old Immigrants” like Omer Miles and John Bilinsky took the stage and in American-accented Ukrainian advised everyone to remember our friends on Election Day.

As I look back on my life from a perspective of more than 50 years, I see it as a struggle to reconcile my two worlds. The fights I had in elementary school to win respect in the schoolyard were ultimately no different than the long-standing political effort I happened to join in the 1970s to convince America to accept Ukraine's struggle for independence as its own. In the process, we helped to win the Cold War.

Today, the DP label has not only lost its sting, but hardly anyone knows what it means. Life goes on and now a new set of immigrants are targets. They're the people who clean America's hotel rooms, pick fruits and vegetables for our dinner table, and grapes for the wine that washes down our meals. They're the ones who take out the garbage at restaurants, plant trees and shrubs and mow the lawn at the houses built with cheap labor from people who speak English with an accent. Predictably, there's also a new set of demagogues who promise to save us from the latest invasion of immigrants. Some are running for president.

For America, immigration is a perennial theme. Part of that history is the passage of the DP Act of 1948. That was a truly generous, far-sighted policy and this is one American who will never forget and will always be grateful.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is [fedynsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fedynsky@sbcglobal.net).



## Ukraine seeks NATO...

(Continued from page 1)

Lavrov.

Feeling bruised by Ukraine's latest attempt at political assertiveness, Russia's Foreign Ministry demonstrated its dissatisfaction when, as part of its official statement released on January 22, it added that "apparently today's Ukrainian leadership considers closer ties with NATO as an alternative to good-neighborly relations with the Russian Federation."

Ukrainian political leaders and analysts dismissed Russia's criticism of Ukraine's declaration as yet another attempt to polarize Ukrainian society.

According to Borys Tarasyuk, member of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc and chair of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on European Integration, Russia's recent statements exemplify its inability to influence the Ukrainian government. "Russian authorities have come to realize that the

previous leadership was easy to manipulate, but not today's government. And that's cause for sudden fear," Mr. Tarasyuk explained.

Oleh Bilorus, member of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) and chair of the Rada's Committee on Foreign Affairs, offered even harsher criticism by calling Russia's statements "outright savagery."

"If Ukraine enters the WTO, will this also cause sanctions?" Mr. Bilorus asked. Ukraine is a sovereign country and, according to the will of its people, Ukraine has the right to enter the WTO and NATO. Russia can be dissatisfied, but sanctions are a bilateral phenomenon and such behavior is irresponsible, commented Mr. Bilorus.

At Mr. Bilorus' request, Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk released an official statement citing the Russian Foreign Ministry's comments as interference in Ukraine's sovereignty. "I think it would be more appropriate if our bilateral relations were based exclusively on mutual respect and non-interference in

Ukraine's sovereignty," stated Mr. Yatsenyuk.

According to Ukraine's political observers, Ukraine's letter requesting admission to a MAP with NATO is long overdue, and will act as only one step on the long and arduous yet steady road toward European integration. If Ukraine's latest request is approved during the forthcoming NATO summit in Bucharest, acceptance to the MAP would act as an impetus for Ukraine to undertake new responsibilities and initiate a much-needed public awareness program.

Currently, approximately only one-third of Ukraine's population supports a full-fledged NATO-integration program, while the rest are either poorly informed, misinformed or against such a policy altogether.

Furthermore, according to Ilyia Kucheriv, director of the Democratic Initiatives Fund in Kyiv, "experience suggests that all of the recently admitted members of the EU [European Union] without exception initially became members of NATO and then the EU. Their entrance into NATO was viewed as sort of a litmus test based on European standards – first NATO and then the EU. That's why this latest appeal to NATO is an important test for Ukraine, because it will only help us to reach those European standards."

By issuing the joint address to NATO, Ukraine's top leaders hoped to encourage intense discussions regarding Ukraine's current and future relationship with NATO. Commenting on the letter to NATO, Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha said the statement is yet another confirmation to the world community of Ukraine's unwavering drive toward European integration. Mr. Baloha believes that the so-called policy of "intensified dialogue" of the last four years has run its course and needs to be upgraded to a more serious level. "Such a proposal is entirely constitutional and fully complies with Ukrainian legislation, particularly the law on the fundamentals of national security, ratified in 2003, which stipulates Ukraine's right to attain membership in the alliance," stated Mr. Baloha.

Asked to comment on why the joint

statement elicited opposition in Parliament from the Party of the Regions of Ukraine (PRU) and the Communist faction (CPU), Mr. Baloha seemed baffled at the opposition's inconsistency, citing the fact that during the PRU's administration in running the government, it was Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's signatures that steered the course toward NATO integration.

To quell confusion about the MAP's exact terms and requirements, and what this currently means for Ukraine, Valerii Chalyi, assistant general director of the Razumkov Center, made it clear that the joint statement issued by Ukraine's leaders is not a direct request to join NATO. In fact, according to Mr. Chalyi, such a step is not even a guarantee that Ukraine will be admitted to a MAP, because a consensus of current NATO-member countries must first be secured.

"In Ukraine, the question of NATO admission is not yet on the daily agenda. Ukraine is not ready to take that step yet, because it doesn't have the broad support of the population," said Mr. Chalyi. First of all, a resolution to hold a referendum must be confirmed by the government, approved by NATO and ratified by Parliament. Only after these steps are taken and fulfilled can Ukraine hold a national referendum, explained Mr. Chalyi.

By agreeing to sign the joint statement on the MAP, Prime Minister Tymoshenko was the last of the three leaders to join the consensus regarding support for NATO membership. However, holding true to her pre-election campaign promise, Ms. Tymoshenko stipulated that Ukraine's ultimate relationship with NATO would be decided only by a national referendum.

On January 1 Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko flew to NATO headquarters in Brussels and delivered Ukraine's joint to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Mr. Ohryzko assured the NATO leader that President Yushchenko and his country's government have a unified vision of Ukraine's foreign policy and its aim to achieve full European integration.

Foreign Ministers of NATO member-states may begin review of the joint statement in February.

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## Ukraine on verge...

(Continued from page 1)

Republican and co-chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, said on January 15, during his visit to Ukraine, that Ukraine has every possibility to join the WTO this year, inasmuch as Ukraine's economic development is evolving very well.

According to Vice Prime Minister for Euro-Integration Issues Hryhorii Nemyria, Ukraine's admission to the WTO will in no way hinder the economic development of any other country, including the Russian Federation. Ukraine's government is dismissing any suggestions that Ukraine's European integration and its membership in the WTO may damage the economic and political stability of other countries,

declared Mr. Nemyria.

Mr. Nemyria added that, once Ukraine joins the WTO, the Verkhovna Rada will have to amend 11 current laws, which may take up to six months to implement.

The EU formally completed its bilateral negotiations with Ukraine regarding WTO membership back in 2003. Afterwards, the EU continued to cooperate closely with Ukraine through a multi-lateral working group.

Today the European Union is Ukraine's largest trading partner and the biggest seller of Ukraine's goods.

Some experts have said that successful negotiations between the EU and Ukraine – which paved the way for Ukraine's eventual WTO member status – can be considered one of the first major achievements of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's government.

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# International Ukrainian Football Tournament held in Adelaide, Australia

by Christina Maria Paschyn

ADELAIDE, Australia – Soccer is a sport with the power to unite friends, enemies and strangers from around the globe. It is the world's most popular game, so it is not uncommon for even amateur players to travel thousands of miles and spend thousands of dollars just for the chance to kick a small, round ball.

And that love of soccer – or football as it is called outside of North America – proved its power again last week when it enticed Ukrainians from Great Britain and Ivano-Frankivsk to fly to the land Down Under to play in the second-annual International Ukrainian Football Tournament (IUFT).

"It's been a pleasure meeting another Ukrainian community in Australia. We've met people we didn't meet last year in Sydney [IUFT 2007], and again they have embraced us," said 29-year-old Stefan Moroziuk, the captain of the Ukrainian soccer team from Great Britain. "And it's fantastic, which is really a massive part of the tournament, people meeting each other around the world."

The tournament is quite possibly the global Ukrainian diaspora community's largest sporting event. Held this year in Adelaide, Australia, on January 13-19, organizers welcomed three local Australian Ukrainian teams: Melbourne-Victoria (USC Lions Victoria), Adelaide (USC Lion Adelaide) and Sydney (Sydney Trident FC).

Great Britain was represented by a team comprising players from England and Scotland. And Ukraine fielded a team from the University of Oil and Gas in Ivano-Frankivsk, called FSC Prykarpattia.

The teams played an average of five games during the six-day tournament, with two matches taking place each night.

Although Sydney won the championship trophy in the IUFT inaugural year in 2007, this year team Ukraine, which plays in the Ukrainian First League, was favored to win.

And it lived up to its reputation, winning the tournament without a single loss. Team Sydney came in second, losing to Ukraine 0-1 during a 20-minute overtime in the final match.

"The Ukrainians play a good game," said Sydney player Ahmad Kabbara, 23, who is Lebanese by heritage but is active in the city's Ukrainian diaspora soccer community. "They play a fast game. But we slowed down our game and we approached them in the right way," he noted.

"[But] five games in six days, that does get to every player," Mr. Kabbara explained. "And coming out of that, I think for both teams you're going to get tired and you're going to miss those chances."

Great Britain emerged from the tournament in third after beating Adelaide 2-0 in the play-off match for third place. It was a respectable feat after two of the team's players suffered ankle and finger injuries during the week.

"Just one man down in the squad and trying to keep fresh legs on the pitch all the time and you're a man short – it does make a big difference," said Mr. Moroziuk, who suffered damaged ligaments in his right ankle when he was tackled during a match against Victoria. Great Britain won the game 8-0, but the injury left Mr. Moroziuk sidelined for the rest of the tournament.

Still, Mr. Moroziuk said he was proud of the team's finish.

"I think we finished quite strongly in this tournament," he said. "A lot of people feel we should have been in the final, but then it doesn't go like that in soccer because

*Christina Maria Paschyn holds a master's degree in broadcast journalism from Northwestern University. She will be going back to school in August to obtain a master's degree in Middle East Studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel.*

it's so unpredictable sometimes."

Team Victoria placed fifth, after drawing one game and losing three. It was arguably the weakest team at the tournament with four players in their mid-40s who simply were unable to match their younger and fitter competitors.

Yet Victoria's games provided the most entertainment for the 300 or so spectators who flocked to the grange stands each night.

Indeed, the highlight of tournament was its unusually friendly losing match against Ukraine, 4-7. It should have been a quick and easy win for Ukraine. But Victoria managed to mollify its opponent's fierce competitiveness early in the week.

"The older guys really looked after the Ukrainian boys," laughed 25-year-old Andrew Sobol, the captain and goalie of team Victoria. "They took them out every night, showed them a good time, and spent quite a bit of money on them. They became good friends."

"And they [team Ukraine] already were in the final, so there was no point in them playing hard," he continued with a sly grin. "And we wanted some respectability as well. So we had an understanding"

But team Ukraine wasn't the only one to enjoy itself off the field. IUFT 2008 kicked off with the Adelaide Malanka, which featured a performance by the Adelaide Ukrainian dance troupe Volya.

Throughout the week, the players were treated to free meals by the tournament-sponsor, Hoverla, the Ukrainian credit union in Adelaide, whose generosity also financed a koala sanctuary walk for team Ukraine.

And in the morning hours before the matches, the players built up their strength by cavorting around Glenelg – one of South Australia's premiere beach towns.

"The hospitality out here is second to none," said Roman Lenio, 26, a player from Great Britain. "The organization of the competition is fantastic."

The IUFT's president and founder, Daniel Sawalaga, also said he believed the tournament was a success.

"It's brought a lot of Ukrainians who haven't been involved in the Ukrainian community for a long time," beamed the 29-year-old Mr. Sawalaga. "It's brought a lot of interest, it's gotten people talking. We've involved other facets of the Ukrainian community, like dancing groups and choirs. And a lot of people have enjoyed it."

Spectator Natalia Hayduk, 22, couldn't agree more, but said she hopes that the IUFT will expand to include gender-representative teams.

"I think women's soccer games would be great as well. If not next year, at least within the next five years it should be a goal. I know there are plenty of girls up in Sydney who would love it," Ms. Hayduk said.

"[Also] hopefully next year the Americans will come along and it can be more of an international event," she added.

An American-Canadian team attended the tournament last year, tying for third with Great Britain. But this year, according to USCAK Soccer Director Gene Chyzowych, the organization was unable to send a team because of a previous commitment to the Diaspora Olympiad in Philadelphia.

"There was too much to do, too many expenses," Mr. Chyzowych explained. "And the teams were not prepared because most of the players are committed to work and as a result it would have been impossible to take off for those 10 days."

But he said USCAK will definitely participate in the tournament in 2009, which is set to be held in Nottingham, England.

For Mr. Sawalaga, that means his dream is coming true.



Christina Maria Paschyn

**Team Ukraine players celebrate their win at the International Ukrainian Football Tournament 2008 held in Adelaide, Australia.**

"I went to England and America on an overseas trip in 2005 ... and I heard about the tournaments that the English [Ukrainians] had been to in America a couple years prior, and they said how good it was," he said.

"My brother and I were very jealous, and we thought 'why can't we be

involved?' And we started talking, 'let's do an international one.' And everyone was keen."

Based on the response from the players and fans present at this year's tournament, "keen" is an understatement.

For more information on the IUFT, visit the website at [www.IUFT.net](http://www.IUFT.net).



**Spectators Natalia Hayduk, 22, and Tanya Lanycia, 21, show their support for the Australian Ukrainian teams.**



**The soccer team from Sydney, which took second place in the tournament.**



## FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych



# A World War I exhibition in Lemberg (Lviv)

I recently came across two very interesting postcards depicting buildings constructed for a 1916 wartime exposition in Lemberg (today's Lviv).<sup>1</sup> I had never heard of such an exhibition, and I'm hoping this article may generate some more information about this event.

### Description of the cards

June of 1916 – when the cards were posted – was a relatively peaceful time for the citizens of Lemberg, who were recovering from the almost 10-month Russian occupation that had ended only a year before.<sup>2</sup> To help celebrate the first anniversary of the liberation, the 2nd Army Command<sup>3</sup> decided to set up a “War Exhibition.”<sup>4</sup>

Both cards were probably produced by the military printing office of the 2nd Army, since the reverse of each displays a simple vertical, dotted, dividing line and four horizontal, dotted address lines (with the third line thickened) so typical of the Austrian military-produced postcards of the war. The cards were sent free-franked (i.e., postage free, without any stamps) via field post offices by Lt. Josef Kaspar, a member of the K.u.k. Kraftwagenkolonne 5 (Motor Column No. 5) stationed in Lemberg, to a Mr. Karl Kaus in Vienna.

Both items were written in German and the earlier card (Figure 1), mailed June 13, 1916, through Field Post 201, has an inscription in the upper left corner of the reverse that describes the image that appears on the obverse: “A pavilion [under construction] for the June 22 opening of the War Exhibit of the 2nd Army in Lemberg.”

The second card, mailed July 31, 1916, via Field Post 240, has a description penned next to the image that reads: “Church at the War Exhibit of the K.u.k. 2nd Army in Lemberg” (Figure 2). On the reverse of this card, in the lower left corner, is a little note that says: “Many thanks for the series cards.” This message would seem to indicate that the two correspondents were exchanging postcards depicting topics of interest to them.

It appears that the material of choice for the vast majority of the construction that took place was timber. Stonework would have been minimal, since all of the buildings were temporary – even the church and its belfry – and would have been dismantled by the 2nd Army at the conclusion of the exhibition.

Kraftwagenkolonne 5 was a motorized transport column – as opposed to horse-drawn – and the writer of the cards probably helped transport the wood used for constructing the exhibition buildings. So, he was quite proud of his contribution to the effort – hence the postcards.

### Analysis of the card images

The building under construction on the first card may have been the main pavilion of the exhibition. It was certainly one of the most important and its very shape was meant to reflect the grandeur of the empire. The dome of the structure was topped by a crown very reminiscent of the imperial crown of Rudolf II, with which the Austrian monarchs had themselves invested (Figure 3). The dome itself also mimics the crown's shape. The dual wings of the pavilion may



Figure 1. The obverse and reverse of a card showing a pavilion under construction for the War Exhibition held in Lemberg during the summer of 1916.



Figure 2. The obverse and reverse of a card showing a wooden church – reminiscent in style of those seen in the Ukrainian Carpathians – on the grounds of the War Exhibition in Lemberg.

have been meant to reflect the Austrian and Hungarian halves of the empire. The entire shape of the structure roughly approximates the entrance to the Hofburg (Imperial Palace), as seen from the Michaelerplatz in Vienna (Figure 4).

The Austro-Hungarian Empire encompassed a lot of mountainous territory including most of the true Alps, the Dinaric Alps, the Transylvanian Alps and the Carpathian Mountains. This latter range was thickly wooded and it was here, in the mountain villages and foothills, that native folk architecture flourished. Over time, a tremendous variety of beautiful houses of worship were created, a great many of which have been preserved in eastern Slovakia, southern Poland, north-central Romania and, most especially, in western Ukraine.

The style of wooden church depicted in Figure 2, with an attached, ornately decorated belfry,<sup>5</sup> is fairly typical of the types of wooden churches found in the Zakarpattia region of western Ukraine, or in the Lemko region of eastern Slovakia (whose populace is ethnographically Ukrainian), see “Pictorial essay” on page 11. The bell tower, with its many openings, may have served as an observation platform where visitors to the exposition could oversee the entire exhibition grounds.

The conical roofs seen at the entrance to the church compound on the left, as well as on the building to the right of the church, are also reminiscent of this type of Carpathian craftsmanship. It is quite likely, therefore, that the architect of the church shown on the card was Ukrainian, perhaps an officer serving in the Austro-Hungarian army.

Might a closer look at the composition of the units making up the 2nd Army provide further clues? Orders from June 4, 1916,

show that the 2nd Army, headquartered in Brody, consisted of the 4th Corps, the 5th Corps, Group Kosak, and, in Reserve, the 29th Infantry Division and the 29th Cavalry Brigade. The ethnic composition of the 4th Corps was Hungarian, Slovak and German; that of the 5th Corps was German, Hungarian and Romanian. In the Reserve, the ethnic make-up was Slovak, Hungarian, German and Czech. No Ukrainian units anywhere.

The remaining Group Kosak consisted of the 53rd and 54th Infantry Brigades. The former was made up of two Hungarian-Slovak regiments. However, the 54th Infantry Brigade was made up of Infantry Regiment No. 67 (Slovak) and Infantry Regiment No. 85 (Ukrainian and Romanian). Since a regiment in 1916 was composed of about 4,500 men, some 2,250 of the men would have been Ukrainians. The recruitment base for Infantry Regiment No. 85 was Syhit (Sighetu Marmatiei), on the Ukrainian (Hutsul<sup>6</sup>)-Romanian ethnographic border. So the architect of the wooden church and belfry was probably a Ukrainian Hutsul serving officer from K.u.k. Infantry Regiment No. 85 who came from the Syhit district.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have further information about the 1916 Lemberg exhibition. I may be reached at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 USA or by e-mail at [ingert@star-power.net](mailto:ingert@star-power.net)

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My thanks to Peter Cybaniak and Roman Dubyniak, who reviewed an early draft of this article and supplied me with helpful suggestions, as well as further information on the composition of the 2nd Army and wooden churches of Zakarpattia.



Figure 3. The imperial crown on the Austrian 10-heller value stamp of 1916.



Figure 4. The entrance to the Hofburg as seen on a 1972 Austrian 4-schilling stamp commemorating the Conference of European Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT) Ministers.

<sup>1</sup> Western Ukraine (Halychyna) with its capital of Lemberg (Lviv) was at this time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

<sup>2</sup> The Russians entered Lemberg on September 2-3, 1914, and were not driven out until June 22, 1915.

<sup>3</sup> The 2nd Army had been granted the honor of entering Lemberg first and so was considered the relieving army.

<sup>4</sup> The Lemberg exhibition was a sort of regional version of a larger War Exhibition that opened in Vienna in July of 1916, ran through November

1916, closed for the winter, and then re-opened for the spring and summer of 1917.

<sup>5</sup> In most of the other areas of Galicia, then under Austrian rule, the belfrys tended to be built separately from the church proper and were generally not as elaborately constructed.

<sup>6</sup> The Hutsul highlanders of the Carpathians form a unique Ukrainian ethnic subgroup, widely renowned for their mastery with wood, as well as for their amazingly detailed and beautiful folk art (embroidery, ceramics, leather work, wood sculpture and egg-decorating).



# Pictorial essay: wooden churches

The beauty and diversity of Ukrainian wooden churches in the Carpathian Mountains was well represented in a series of pen-and-ink drawings converted into postcards during the inter-war period. Published by Rudolf Hulka in Prague, the cards wonderfully portray the different roof and belfry styles of these places of worship, some of which very closely resemble those seen in Figure 2.

Reproduced below are the eight cards of the series known to me; compare the drawings to the buildings shown in Figure 2. Figures A-F all display some elements found in the Lemberg exposition church and its bell tower, while Figures G and H show roof lines similar to the church's surrounding structures.

Finally, I include two postcard views from the 1920s showing the romantic castle ruins at Nevytske, not far outside Uzhhorod, in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine (Figures I and J). Notice how the roof of the ruin tower is virtually identical to that seen on the belfry of the exhibition church.

— Ingerit Kuzych



Figure A – Wooden church from the village of Yasinia.



Figure B – Wooden church from the village of Steblivka.



Figure C – Wooden church from the village of Izky.



Figure D – Wooden church from the village of Nyzhnyi Studenyi.



Figure E – Wooden church from the village of Bystryi.



Figure F – Wooden church from the village of Pylypets.



Figure G – Wooden church from the village of Torun.



Figure H – Wooden church from the village of Soimy.



Figure I – Courtyard and tower in the ruined castle at Nevytske.



Figure J – Aerial view of the castle ruins at Nevytske.

## “Freedom in the World”...

(Continued from page 5)

declines in civil liberties, while in East Africa, Somalia’s already low score declined further. Other countries that showed declines included Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Comoros, the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar and Malawi.

Latin America today is largely governed by parties that have demonstrated a commitment to the electoral process, freedom of expression and a broad range of civil liberties. However, “Freedom in the World” judged that freedom in Venezuela remained under duress, and Nicaragua also suffered a decline. On the positive side,

Haiti showed signs of modest progress.

Both North America and, with a few exceptions, Western Europe received the highest ratings on the Freedom House index. However, the flawed response to an upsurge in immigration in Europe and the U.S. has revealed potentially serious imperfections in these countries’ democratic systems, especially in Western Europe. Furthermore, they continued to grapple with problems posed by the continued threat of Islamic terrorism.

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# Celebration and Festschrift honor Dr. Frank E. Sysyn

by Uliana Pasicznyk

TORONTO – Seventy-five colleagues, friends and relatives of Dr. Frank E. Sysyn gathered on November 2, 2007, at Trinity College of the University of Toronto to mark his 60th birthday, celebrate his distinguished academic career and announce the publication of a Festschrift in his honor.

Dr. Sysyn is director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), University of Alberta, Edmonton, and head of the CIUS office at the University of Toronto.

A native of Clifton, N.J., Dr. Sysyn began his scholarly career at Princeton University, where he completed a bachelor's degree (Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude) at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1968. He received a master's degree in history from the University of London School of Slavonic Studies in 1969.

He then came to Harvard University at the time that Prof. Omeljan Pritsak and the Ukrainian Studies Fund were working to establish Ukrainian studies there. Soon he became deeply involved in that effort, both as a doctoral student in the department of history and as an activist and fund-raiser for the project to establish three professorships – in history, language and literature – as well as a research institute for Ukrainian studies at Harvard University.

In the decade that followed, he held a number of research fellowships abroad, in the United Kingdom, Poland and the USSR, and completed his Harvard Ph.D. with a dissertation on the prominent 17th century political figure Adam Kysil.

Subsequently Dr. Sysyn taught as an assistant professor and then associate professor of history at Harvard, administered the Ukrainian program of the Harvard Summer School, became associate editor of the journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, continued his research projects in the U.S. and abroad, wrote numerous scholarly works and served as associate director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.

In 1989 Dr. Sysyn came to Canada to join the CIUS at the University of Alberta as director of the new Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research. At that post he founded and continues to administer a number of research and publications programs. He serves as editor-in-chief of the center's major undertaking, the Hrushevsky Translation Project, which is producing a complete English version of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's multi-volume *History of Ukraine-Rus'*. Dr. Sysyn also heads the CIUS office at the University of Toronto.

He has continued his own scholarly work in Ukrainian studies, particularly in the fields of early modern Kozak, political and religious history, and has an extensive bibliography of publications. He has also found time to conduct courses in history at Stanford University and also at Columbia University, where he will be teaching this coming spring.

The celebratory evening's program opened with greetings by Dr. Zenon E. Kohut, director of CIUS, who spoke warmly of his long personal and professional friendship with the honoree and highlighted some of his most notable achievements.

Prof. Olga Andriewsky of Trent University spoke of Dr. Sysyn as her teacher, mentor, colleague and friend, noting in particular his profound influence on her intellectual development as a scholar and historian.

Uliana Pasicznyk, managing editor of the Harvard Translation Project, shared some experiences and perceptions in working with Dr. Sysyn on editorial projects over many years, first at Harvard and then at the University of Toronto.

Nadia Jacyk, head of the Jacyk Educational Foundation and daughter of philanthropist Peter Jacyk, spoke of the esteem in which her late father held Dr. Sysyn and her appreciation of his accomplishments as director of the scholarly center Mr. Jacyk founded.

Prof. Serhii Plokhii, newly appointed Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard, and previously associate director of the Jacyk Center at the University of Alberta, spoke of meeting Dr. Sysyn at Harvard in the 1980s and his role in bringing him to Edmonton as a visiting scholar in 1991. He expressed gratitude and great regard for Dr. Sysyn as a scholar and friend.

Prof. Plokhii went on to acknowledge and read greetings and congratulations sent to Dr. Sysyn from colleagues and scholarly organizations across North America, as well as from Ukraine, Poland, the United Kingdom, Germany and Russia.

Prof. Andriewsky read a letter by John Sysyn sharing



Dr. Frank Sysyn

warm personal and family recollections about his older brother. Dr. Sysyn's aunt, Olga Zidowsky, greeted the gathering on behalf of members of the Sysyn family and spoke of her nephew's devotion and importance to them; she also shared memories of the family's painful loss of Frank Sysyn Sr. in the past year.

Profs. Andriewsky and Plokhii then presented Dr. Sysyn with a manuscript of the Festschrift to be published in his honor. The project follows the European scholarly tradition of marking a 60th or other important birthday of an eminent scholar by producing a new work of scholarship in his honor and including it in a special collection, traditionally given a Latin title. Dr. Sysyn's Festschrift, titled "Tentorium Honorum" after a panegyric addressed to Adam Kysil, contains 33 articles of historical scholarship written by his colleagues and students on a broad range of topics. The studies deal with Ukraine and other Eastern and Central European countries and encompass early history to modern times. The editors of the collection are Profs. Andriewsky and Plokhii, and Larry Wolff of New York University,

another former student of Dr. Sysyn.

The evening continued with two more presentations by the honoree's CIUS colleagues. Dr. Marko R. Stech, managing director of CIUS Press, expressed appreciation of Dr. Sysyn's ethical standards and personal qualities, and presented him with the institute's gift of a painting symbolizing Ukrainian Christianity throughout history by the eminent Ukrainian artist Feodosii Humeniuk.

On a light-hearted note, Andriy Makuch, editor and Ukrainian Canadian specialist, bestowed an ornamental yet weighty bulava (Kozak hetman's mace) on the honoree, in recognition of his special expertise in Ukrainian Kozak history and commanding leadership in the field of Ukrainian studies.

Dr. Sysyn himself concluded the program. He thanked those present for gathering in his honor and expressed particular gratitude to the program's organizers and speakers.

He shared how childhood experiences, especially the influence of his paternal grandparents, sparked his interest in Ukraine and its history, and how that interest developed during his student years. He spoke of the scholars who were his mentors, particularly Profs. Pritsak and Ihor Sevcenko of Harvard, and his good fortune in having challenging students and talented and dedicated colleagues. He voiced his belief in the future of Ukrainian studies and the need for scholarship in the field to continue to develop both in Ukraine and beyond its borders.

He expressed gratitude for the love and support of his family and thanked his aunt and his mother, Hattie Sysyn, for coming to Toronto to be present. He noted the important career advice once given him by his father and expressed sadness at his absence from this special occasion.

Throughout the evening the gathering was entertained by a slide show of photos depicting events in Dr. Sysyn's life, created by Marta Baziuk and Prof. Taras Koznarsky of the University of Toronto. A special guest was Dr. Sysyn's godson, first-grader Tymish Koznarsky.

Dr. Sysyn's Festschrift will appear as a special issue of the *Journal of Ukrainian Studies* published by CIUS Press. Anyone wishing to join in congratulating the honoree may make a contribution toward publishing costs and add their names to the "Tabula Gratulatoria" that will appear in the publication. Donations should be sent to Roman Senkus, director of the CIUS Publications Program, University of Toronto, 256 McCaul St., Room 308, Toronto, ON M5T 1W5 Canada.

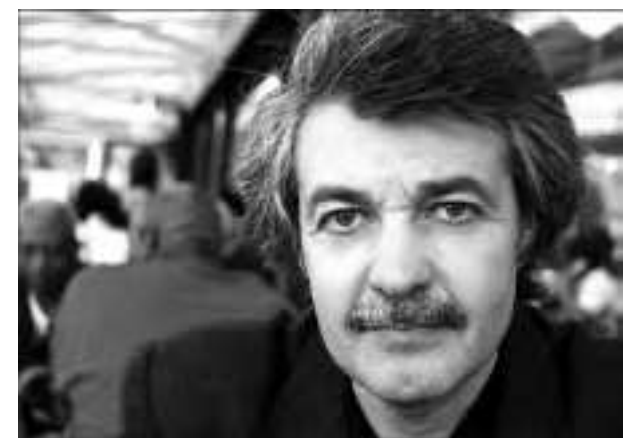
## Novel by Volodymyr Dibrova wins BBC Ukrainian Service's Book Prize

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute's (HURI) publication editor and writer-in-residence, Volodymyr Dibrova, received the BBC Ukrainian Service Book Prize for 2007 for his novel "Andriyivskyi Uzviz." His work was selected over 15 other nominees by a jury consisting of Vira Aheyeva, professor at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy; Serhii Vasilev, cultural monitor for the journal *SHO*; Serhii Zhadan, writer and last year's BBC winner; the poet Oleksander Irvanets; and Svitlana Pirkalo, a BBC producer.

Notified of the award via a phone from the BBC Dr. Dibrova said: "I am very grateful to the Ukrainian Service of the BBC for its establishment of this prize which, in this way, supports Ukrainian literature. I also want to thank all the members of the jury, and all people who read the work and wrote positive reviews. For me, personally, this is great support. Up until now, I thought that my works were only read by a narrow circle of reviewers and it's great to find out that I have a wide audience in Ukraine."

The novel takes its name from the street that unites the upper and lower parts of the city of Kyiv and serves as an allegory for the protagonist's life from its end to its beginning. It is a place dominated by the pulse of the era; there is noise and confusion as people rush up and down. Some keep to the right and reach their goal, while others get lost in the chaos.

Reviewers noted that the novel is light and slightly ironic. It is precise and without any trace of jargon or slang. The construction of the dialogue shows the author's talent and has the feel of Soviet-era anecdotes.



Volodymyr Dibrova

The other entries for the BBC prize included "Shoma" by Sofiya Andruhovych, "Tayemnytsia" by Yuriy Andruhovych; "Mizeria" by Taras Antypovych; "Elektonii Platylin" by Mikhaylo Brynykh, "Trokhy Pitmy" by Lyubko Deresh, "Halmanakh" by Bohdan Zholdak, "Zoopark" by Andriy Kokotyukha, "Zhertva Zabutoho Maystra" by Evhenia Kononenko, "Ne Chervoniyuchy" by Oksana Lutsyshyna, "Sontse Tak Ridko Zakhodyt" by Oksana Lutsyshyna; "Hovoryty" by Tanya Malyarchuk, "Mayzhe Nikoloy Ne Navpaky" by Maria Matiyus, "Sluha z Dobromylya" by Halyna Pahutyak; "Chebrets v Molotsi" by Natalka Snyadanko and "BZhd" by Sashko Ushkalov.

Dr. Dibrova, 56, a native of Donetsk, Ukraine, is married with three children and lives in Waltham, Mass.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

signed by Ukraine's president, prime minister and Verkhovna Rada chairman indicating Ukraine's intent to join the NATO Membership Action Plan, it was reported on January 17. A statement circulated by the chancellery of the Polish president reads in part: "Since the start of his office as president, Lech Kaczynski has supported Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. According to the president of the Republic of Poland, Ukraine is part of Western civilization and should take part in its political, economic and military cooperation, as well as integration." (Ukrinform)

### Yushchenko to visit Russia

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko will visit Russia on February 12 to attend the second session of the Ukrainian-Russian Intergovernmental Commission. The date was accepted by the two sides during a telephone conversation between Presidents Yushchenko and Vladimir Putin. Mr. Yushchenko said, "The first priority task of the visit I believe is signing the Ukraine-Russia Action Plan." National Security and Defense Council Secretary Raisa Bohatyriova will pay a working visit to Russia on January 28-30 to gear up for the president's visit to Russia. (Ukrinform)

### President OKs NSDC composition

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has approved the composition of the National Security and Defense Council, it was reported on January 21. Mr. Yushchenko is the chairman of the NSDC, while Raisa Bohatyriova is its secretary. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Presidential Secretariat Chief Viktor Baloha, Defense Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko, Chief of the Outer Intelligence Service Mykola Malomuzh, Procurator General Oleksander Medvedko, First Deputy Chief of the Security Service of Ukraine Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko, Emergency Minister Volodymyr Shandra, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk, National Academy of Sciences President Borys Paton and National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh are members of the NSDC. (Ukrinform)

### Holovatyj re-elected PACE VP

KYIV – The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) re-elected Ukrainian National Deputy Serhii Holovatyj of the Party of the Regions as a vice-president. PACE vice-presidents were elected on January 21. (Ukrinform)

### Ukraine-EU committee on visas

KYIV – The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry and the European Union intend to set up a committee to monitor the execution of the agreement on visa facilitation that was recently ratified by the Verkhovna Rada. Borys Bazylevskyi of the ministry's consular department said that the committee, comprising representatives of the EU and the ministry, is expected to meet in March or April. The agreement on visa facilitation for Ukrainians entering the Schengen zone sets the single charge for a visa at 35 euros (\$51 U.S.) and determines conditions for obtaining multi-entry or free-of-charge visas. (RFE/RL Newslines)

### Last obstacle to WTO removed

KYIV – A Ukrainian delegation led by Vice Prime Minister Hryhorii Nemyria on January 16 reached a compromise with the European Union over questions regarding export duties, thus removing the last obstacle on Ukraine's path to joining the

(Continued on page 15)



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

World Trade Organization (WTO). "This is the first step toward greater Ukrainian integration with the global and the European economy," European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said. He told the UNIAN news agency that Ukraine agreed to limit its export duties and not to raise them in the future, but did not provide further details. The EU earlier demanded the annulment of all export duties from Ukraine, while Kyiv proposed a moratorium on the introduction of new export duties, as well as not raising existing duties. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### EU launches talks on free-trade area

KYIV – The European Union is launching negotiations on a comprehensive agreement regarding the creation of a free trade area with Ukraine, the European Commission's Delegation to Ukraine said on January 17. In 2006 the commission suggested that Ukraine conclude a new extended agreement stipulating talks on a free trade area with the aim of better integration of the two sides' economies. The talks are conditional on Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). In 2005, 25 percent of the Ukrainian exports to the tune of 8.7 billion euros were to the EU, while 42 percent of goods worth 17.8 billion euros were imported to Ukraine from the EU. (Ukrinform)

### PM pledges transparent privatization

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said on January 16 that "there will be no more half-shady or shady privatizations in Ukraine," reported RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service. "All objects will be privatized in a completely transparent way, in open auctions," she said. First Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov announced that the government has approved a list of 28 Ukrainian enterprises that should be privatized in the first instance. The Odesa Portside Plant, the country's second-largest chemical plant, and Ukrtelekom are on the list, which Mr. Turchynov said is incomplete. The government assumed revenues of 8.5 billion hrv (\$1.6 billion U.S.) from the privatizations in its 2008 budget. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Cuba helps Chernobyl children

KYIV – A program of post-Chernobyl rehabilitation of Ukrainian children in Cuba will be active as long as Ukraine needs it, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Cuba to Ukraine Julio Garmendia said on January 17. The program was launched 18 years ago in April and "we have applied much effort to treat the Ukrainian children," Mr. Garmendia stressed. Some 22,000 Ukrainian children

have visited Cuba over those 18 years. The project is funded completely by Cuba. The Jose Marti Rehab Center provides services to treat cancer and other serious ailments, and Cuban doctors perform successful kidney and heart surgeries. (Ukrinform)

### Yanukovich: Kushnariov murdered

KYIV – "I don't believe the killing of Yevhen Kushnariov was accidental," Viktor Yanukovich told journalists in Kharkiv at solemnities on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death. "I am neither a policeman nor the procurator general, yet as a human I don't believe in coincidence. We mean to employ experts. We have consulted Kushnariov's family and know their stance, yet, I won't comment on the situation now," Mr. Yanukovich said. Mr. Yanukovich, who leads the Party of the Regions (PRU) said Mr. Kushnariov, a PRU leader, cannot be replaced in the Kharkiv region. (Ukrinform)

### Yushchenko wary of gas revisions

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has warned the government against raising prices for the transit of Russian natural gas across Ukraine, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on January 21, as it will only result in Ukrainians paying more for gas. "Ukraine's policy toward gas transit should remain specific" as long as Ukraine receives Turkmen gas through Russia, Mr. Yushchenko said. He said the price Ukraine pays Russia to bring 55 billion cubic meters of gas the 2,500 kilometers from Turkmenistan corresponds approximately to the price for transit of 127 billion cubic meters of Russian gas across 1,100 kilometers of Ukrainian territory. He argued that it is "illogical" to raise the price at one side and have it raised at the other. Mr. Yushchenko said that Ukraine "every year faces... new prices" for gas delivery, but at the same time it receives gas from Central Asia at the lowest possible price. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### CPU leader makes accusations

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko is not interested in changes concerning the gas supply to Ukraine, as proposed by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, since the present system is beneficial for Mr. Yushchenko's family, charged the leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU), Petro Symonenko. Mr. Yushchenko and his brother Petro have ties to UkrGazEnergo, established as a daughter company of the RosUkrEnergo in Ukraine, Mr. Symonenko said. The CPU leader also charged that PetroGaz, which is linked to Petro Yushchenko, is engaged in money laundering. (Ukrinform)

### Successful rocket launch in Pacific

KYIV – The Ukrainian-Russian carrier-rocket Zenit-3SL, carrying a Thuraya-3

satellite, was successfully launched at 1:49 p.m. on January 15 from a platform in the Pacific Ocean. The satellite was supposed to be put in orbit in November 2007, but the launch date was postponed several times due to bad weather conditions. The Thuraya-3 spacecraft weighs 5.173 tons. It was designed by Boeing for Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications of the United Arab Emirates. The Ukrainian Yuzhnoye Design Office and the production enterprise YuzhMash, the U.S. company Boeing, the Russian rocket and space corporation Energia, and the Norwegian company Kvaerner ASA participate in the Sea Launch project. The January 15 launch was the first since an accident in early 2007, when the carrier-rocket Zenit-3SL was launched to take the NSS-8 satellite into orbit but exploded; two spacecraft were lost and the launch platform Odyssey was damaged. (Ukrinform)

### Serhii Korolev is remembered

KYIV – A memorial marker in honor of space rocket designer Serhii Korolev will be erected near Zhytomyr in western Ukraine, said Yurii Zabela, head of the Zhytomyr Regional State Administration on January 15 during celebrations of the 101st anniversary of Korolev's birth. Mr. Zabela stated: "Serhii Korolev had no equals in any country in the field of world astronautics and rocket production. And we should be proud of the fact that this person, whose ideas and research inventions will long be used by his successors, was born in Zhytomyr." Mr. Zabela said the memorial sign would be rocket-shaped with the inscription "Zhytomyr – Space City." The memorial is to be erected on the World Day of Astronautics and Aviation, which is marked on April 12. (Ukrinform)

### Lytvyn predicts more instability

KYIV – Ukraine's former Chairman of

the Verkhovna Rada Volodymyr Lytvyn is predicting instability of the political situation in the country until the year 2017, it was reported on January 21. He told Business magazine that, "According to my estimates, the critical period in Ukraine will last until 2017." Mr. Lytvyn said he believes that Ukraine has been living in a state of "stable instability" over the past 15 years and that this state will continue for a rather long time. He added that one of the main characteristics of the current political process is the lasting presidential campaign, and a possible competition between the factions of the ruling pro-presidential coalition. There are no grounds for optimistic forecasts, he noted. "This confrontation and sense of temporality will be the determining factors in 2008, while people's fatigue and the wish to have a hard fist will increase." Mr. Lytvyn also said there is a danger that Ukraine may turn toward authoritarianism and dictatorship. (Ukrinform)

### Minister predicts inflation of 10.5-12.5%

KYIV – Ukraine's Economy Minister Bohdan Danylyshyn is predicting inflation of 10.5 percent to 12.5 percent in 2008. He made this forecast as he addressed the press on January 15. He noted that the payment of compensations to former Soviet savings bank depositors in the amount of 20 billion hrv will increase inflation by 1.5 percent more. In 2007 inflation in Ukraine totaled 16.6 percent. (Ukrinform)

### GDP grew by 7.3 percent in 2007

KYIV – In 2007 Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 7.3 percent from 2006, the State Statistics Committee reported. The Cabinet of Ministers predicts 7.2 percent GDP growth and 6.8 percent inflation in 2008. (Ukrinform)



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# Scholar describes recent Holodomor projects in Ukraine

by Natalie Sluzar

NORTH PORT, Fla. – In conjunction with official commemorations of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, or Holodomor, Dr. Nataliya Shulga, a scientist from Kyiv, addressed a gathering here at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, describing two projects related to the Holodomor.

The first project Dr. Shulga described was the transfer of the late Dr. James Mace's archives and library to the library at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Dr. Mace had stipulated in his will that his entire collection was to be donated to Kyiv Mohyla Academy so that researchers and scholars could pursue studies of Soviet policies in Ukraine that resulted in the death by starvation of 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians.

Through the efforts of Dr. Shulga, with the cooperation of Dr. Mace's widow, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and friends, the collection was assembled from several countries, packaged and shipped to Kyiv. Most of the costs of this colossal effort were covered by donations from Dr. Mace's colleagues and friends, especially Russ Chelak of New Jersey, as well as by private donors.

Now that the archives are physically in Kyiv, other problems have arisen. The main problem, Dr. Shulga said, is finding a suitable space at Kyiv Mohyla Academy to house the archives. In addition, appropriate staff must be found to catalogue the archives, translate the documents and monitor their use. Despite all the efforts by the Yushchenko administration to publicize the Holodomor as genocide, bureaucratic wheels turn slowly and many obstacles remain, she noted, added that, unfortunately, it will take at least two years for the

Mace library to be fully operational.

Dr. Shulga said that besides establishing a Holodomor library, another wish of Dr. Mace was to establish a fellowship for serious scholars from around the world to come to Kyiv to do their research. Lack of funding is preventing such a fellowship from being established at this time, but Dr. Shulga said she is optimistic that it will happen in the future.

Vira Solovyova, director of the Kyiv-Mohyla Publishing House, has prepared three out of four volumes of the report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine for publication in a Ukrainian version this year. She is seeking financial support to cover translations and publishing costs, Dr. Shulga related.

Another project covered by the speaker was the recently published collection of original documents recently released from the KGB and other archives in Ukraine. This 1,000-page collection of original documents, published by Kyiv-Mohyla Publishing House, provides evidence that the Holodomor was a Soviet policy of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

The KGB documents were published in the original language. A translation has already been made into Ukrainian. The next step, Dr. Shulga said, is to do an English translation and eventually translations into the major European languages.

"The truth of the matter is that Ukraine will never get recognition for the Holodomor as genocide if there is no documentation and books on the subject in university libraries all over the world," Dr. Shulga underscored.

Dr. Shulga noted that commemorations of the Holodomor are continuing through 2008 and many events are scheduled on the subject. Funding for the translation project



Natalie Sluzar

Nataliya Shulga of Kyiv and the Rev. Severyn Kovalyshyn, pastor of St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port, Fla.

of the KGB documents is scarce, even though funds have been transferred to the Ministry of Education and Science. Thus, financial assistance from the diaspora is needed, as are translators. Dr. Shulga emphasized that the translation and publication of these materials must be finished in time for the planned commemorations at the United Nations this fall.

Dr. Shulga is a scientist in molecular genetics and cellular biology, born and educated in Kyiv. She worked for many years at the University of Rochester Medical School and department of biology. After the Orange Revolution she decided to return to her native country. Currently she is CEO of a newly created NGO, the

Ukrainian Scientific Club, an international organization of top scientists who wish to contribute to educational and scientific reforms in Ukraine.

Dr. Shulga donated a copy of the recently released Ukrainian-language collection of KGB documents to the library at St. Mary's. Anyone wishing to view the documents is urged to contact the pastor, the Rev. Severyn Kovalyshyn, at 941-426-7931.

Anyone willing to donate toward the translation and publication of the Holodomor documents, may contact Ms. Solovyova at +38 (044) 417-5956, phouse@ukma.kiev.ua; or Dr. Shulga at +38 (044) 295-7532, nataliya\_shulga@nauka.in.ua

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## Texas Ukrainians hold community dinner for Christmas Eve

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas – The home of Stephen and Beth Sokolyk in New Braunfels, Texas, was the scene for the seventh annual “Hromadska Sviata Vecheria” – or community Christmas Eve dinner – for the San Antonio-Austin area on Saturday, January 5.

In this growing tradition, each family prepares at least one traditional Ukrainian meatless dish, which they then bring to the house. Meanwhile, the house is prepared: the living room furniture is carried out, and folding tables and chairs are carried in. The tables are covered with white tablecloths, embroidered runners (rushnyky) and centerpieces. The buffet is set up in the kitchen.

This year the Texas community’s special guests were four little girls from orphanages in the Zhytomyr and Sumy oblasts of Ukraine, along with the director of one of the orphanages, a translator (who is also an incredible cook), and their four New Braunfels host families.

There was a record turnout of 57 adults and about 20 to 30 children, including new immigrants, old immigrants and people for whom this was their first exposure to Ukrainian culture.

The children enjoyed themselves upstairs playing games, or outside jumping on the trampoline. Meanwhile, downstairs the grown-ups were celebrating with Ukrainian carols, a sumptuous buffet and plenty of Ukrainian “horilka” (no Stoli allowed). Thanks to accordionist Larry Peters, the guests even danced the Arkan between the tables. (Missing was the incredible singing Kunasz family, but they should be back next year.)

Several new folks joined the group, including some from as far away as Manchester, England, and Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine. The San Antonio-Austin Sviata Vecheria now has an international following, with “groupies” in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Tucson, Ariz.; New Jersey; and now the District of Columbia. (Y’all just don’t know what you’re missing!)

Getting together in this way has been tremendous for the embryonic Ukrainian community. Many never knew the Christmas traditions growing up, and this has been a way to learn about the Ukrainian heritage, including learning to cook like “Baba” (grandma) did. Others have moved away from very organized Ukrainian communities and are grateful to be able to reconnect in their new home.

If readers want to come join the group next year, or know a South Texas Ukrainian whom the group should meet contact Steve Sokolyk at 830-606-5810 or ssokolyk@aol.com.

## In the press...

(Continued from page 7)

Ukrainian position towards the EU. Both the Orange coalition and parliamentary opposition would be able to agree on a common negotiating position towards the EU that is commensurate with Ukraine’s strategic importance and its progress in democratic and economic reforms. Since 2005, Ukraine is the only CIS country defined as ‘free’ by the New York-based think-tank Freedom House. Ukraine has every right to be treated in the same manner as Romania, Bulgaria, the Western Balkans and Turkey, and Ukraine should not join any ENP [European Neighborhood Plan] or Privileged Partnership if there is no prospect of future membership of the EU. ...”

## Scranton community holds fourth annual Malanka

by Paul Ewasko

SCRANTON, Pa. – The fourth annual “Malanka” – a traditional Ukrainian New Year’s celebration – was held on Friday, January 11, at the handsomely renovated St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 N. Seventh Ave., in Scranton. Sponsored by the combined Ukrainian organizations of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the festivities were co-chaired by Ann Zinich and Janina “Yanka” Everett of Berwick, who is also vice-president on the national board of the League of Ukrainian Catholics.

The Rev. Mitred Protopresbyter Nestor Kowal of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Rev. Paul Wolensky of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church of Scranton served as masters of ceremonies. Malanka, which also is marked in honor of St. Melanie, caps off the festivities of the Christmas/New Year holidays, and is often the last opportunity for celebrating before the solemn period of Great Lent preceding Easter begins.

The generous buffet dinner, catered by Wally Rice of Rice Catering, included a mixed greens salad, chicken Marsala with mushrooms and fresh herbs, pepper encrusted roasted pork au jus, fresh cod in white wine and herbs, caramelized baby carrots, green beans almondine, garlic mashed potatoes as well as Ukrainian fare consisting of borsch, kovbasa with red and white horseradish sauces, holubtsi, varenyky/pyrohy, nut and poppy seed rolls, pliatok, khrustyky and Ukrainian festive walnut torte prepared by parishioners of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Churches of Berwick and Olyphant, and St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church and St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church of Scranton.

The evening included a midnight champagne toast, door prizes and music for guests’ dancing and listening pleasure by Oleksa Kereksha, Bohdan Mykaylyshyn and Ihor Shablovsky of the popular Ukrainian orchestra Fata Morgana, which has played throughout the United States and Canada, as well as in Ukraine.

The busy dance floor shook as partygoers from Northeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Florida enjoyed the fast-moving Ukrainian



Enjoying the Scranton Malanka (from left) are: Joe Berta, Nikki Berta, Sandra Berta and Michael Trusz.

kolomyika and polkas along with the more familiar jitterbug, twist, waltz, tango and romantic slow dances. Colorful Ukrainian embroidered blouses and shirts were worn by many of the partygoers.

While Malankas in Northeastern Pennsylvania were conducted for many years by Ukrainian immigrants and first- and second-generation Ukrainian Americans, the custom faded away for a while. In January 2004, however, it was revived when representatives of the Ukrainian community of Northeastern Pennsylvania joined hands to resurrect this age-old New Year tradition. Spearheaded by the Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, parishioners of St. Michael Ukrainian

Orthodox Church and St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, along with officers of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and members of the North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, a Malanka committee was formed. Due to the positive response and community-wide support, the Malanka is now an annual event.

Gifts of support were provided by the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics and the North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, as well as a number of local businesses and individuals.

Plans are already in the making for Malanka 2009.

## Lutsenko, Chernovetskyi...

(Continued from page 3)

was “a fresh shameful clash between two ranking officials, irrespective of who was the first to start, and who is to blame.” He added, “The two officials acted inadequately to their high posts. ... It does not matter who will be found guilty – the parliamentary force leader and government officer, or the city head. They both

enjoy the trust of thousands of people, who delegated them to power...”

Ukrinform also reported that Mr. Lutsenko said on January 21 that he doesn’t regret fighting with Mayor Chernovetskyi. “I don’t regret what I have done. This was a brave deed of a man who seeks a fair state,” he said in Ivano-Frankivsk. He added that he was responding to the mayor’s lies and accusations of blackmail.



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## Yushchenko strives...

(Continued from page 2)

nated to the internal affairs minister, to be renamed "National Guard" and be subordinated to the president. He also believes that the president, rather than the Cabinet, should appoint the chief of the special communications and information protection service.

He has made it clear that the OU-PSD will not back several key appointments to the Cabinet, which Prime Minister Tymoshenko wanted to make on January 18, until the bills aimed at increasing presidential power are passed. *Segodnya* and *Ukrayinska Pravda* reported that Mr. Yushchenko also rejected Ms. Tymoshenko's choice for chairman of the Anti-Monopoly Committee, Davyd Zhvania. According to the press, Mr. Yushchenko believes that although he formally represents OU-PSD, Mr. Zhvania is in fact on the Tymoshenko team.

Mr. Yushchenko has taken additional steps to clip Ms. Tymoshenko's wings. After returning to the post of prime minister this past December, Ms. Tymoshenko declared her intentions to remove the RosUkrEnergO intermediary company from the natural gas trade between Ukraine and Russia and to charge more for Russian gas transit to Europe. Ms. Tymoshenko insisted that Ukraine would benefit from buying gas directly from Gazprom rather than RosUkrEnergO and from simultaneously raising transit fees for Russian gas. Mr. Yushchenko disagreed, arguing that Ukraine buys gas at a lower price than its neighbors under the current scheme, and that charging more for gas transit would complicate relations with Gazprom.

Ms. Tymoshenko planned to go to Moscow to discuss gas issues with Russian

Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov and Gazprom on January 23. The Presidential Secretariat, however, said that it would be better for Prime Minister Tymoshenko to go to Moscow together with President Yushchenko on February 12, when the Yushchenko-Putin commission gathers. Interviewed on TV on January 20, Mr. Yushchenko warned the Tymoshenko Cabinet against revising the existing scheme of gas trade and gas transit fees.

Most recently, Mr. Yushchenko asked Ms. Tymoshenko to drop her privatization plan for 2008. Meeting Ms. Tymoshenko on January 21, Mr. Yushchenko said that the plan had been prepared too hastily, and that a law to make privatization more transparent should be passed first.

Ms. Tymoshenko planned to use privatization proceedings to compensate Ukrainians for the savings lost in the defunct Soviet savings bank. A successful compensation campaign should boost Ms. Tymoshenko's popularity among the poor, improving her chances to win the next presidential election.

Speaking in her native Dnipropetrovsk on January 14, Ms. Tymoshenko made a statement that was widely interpreted as a warning to Mr. Yushchenko. She said that she is happy to carry on as prime minister, but she may consider running for president "if the Cabinet is limited by certain restrictions, if they start putting forward certain conditions." Mr. Yushchenko on several earlier occasions denied the rumors saying that he had agreed to Ms. Tymoshenko's premiership in return for her promise to not run against him in the next presidential election.

Sources: *ITAR-TASS, January 14; Ukrayinska Pravda, January 17; Segodnya, 1+1 TV, January 18; Zerkalo Nedeli, January 19; Inter TV, January 20; Ukrayinski Novyny, January 21.*

## Cancer survivor...

(Continued from page 6)

pered through tears. "Let me die. I can't live like this." Natasha could barely hear her daughter's words.

The distraught mother lovingly closed her daughter's eyes. Walking across the room, she heard the child sigh for the last time and become still. Natasha sat with her eyes closed, sobbing silently, biting her lips until they bled while feeling no pain.

Then, suddenly, she stood up, rushed over to her daughter. The child was blue. She had no pulse; her heart had stopped. Although this seemed to be the end, Natasha was confident she could correct the situation. Like a robot, she began 15 chest compressions, two breaths, 15 chest compressions, two breaths, over and over, hundreds of times. She didn't look at her watch. She didn't even think about possible brain damage, the result of cardiac arrest. She had but one thought: she had to save her daughter.

With her next breath, she put a hand on the child's neck. She felt a pulse. Her daughter's heart was beating. She continued to do CPR, confident that she would win the battle against death and that her daughter would be healthy again.

When the girl came to, she tasted blood in her mouth. She didn't know it was not her blood but her mother's. The girl knew only one thing: her mother had brought her back to life, back to a world of asphyxia and thirst. She almost hated her mother. At the time, she didn't realize how much she really wanted to live.

But her mother knew. It was as though she'd known one day her daughter would thank her. It took seven years. But one day, I did.

"Thank you mom for not 'setting my soul free.'"

Thanks to her, I've been able to live these seven years in spite of my tumor. It's been a seven-year fight with myasthenia gravis and cancer. But still, I've had seven more years. Even now my mom sits by my bed watching me breathe. She knows I will face many life-threatening battles ahead. But she also knows she will fight to save my life. Even if the situation seems desperate. Even if my heart stops, she won't "set my soul free."

\*\*\*

At age 23 though tied to a wheelchair and suffering from myasthenia gravis and breast cancer, Ira devotes her time to her Happy Child Foundation ([www.deti.zp.ua](http://www.deti.zp.ua)) and to helping children in the oncology unit in which she had spent much of 1997, 1998 and 1999. She analyzes the unit's needs and, using the Internet, finds sponsors to provide equipment and medicine.

In the spring, Ira plans to expand her mission. Working with former Peace Corps volunteer Anne Linden, author of "Assumptions and Misunderstandings, Memoir of an Unwitting Spy" and program coordinator for her own NGO ([www.ukraineworks.org](http://www.ukraineworks.org)), Ira will use her experiences to launch a campaign against children's smoking.

To help, readers can make donations by transferring money (in dollars) to the Happy Child Charity Fund. The following information is required for such transfers: beneficiary customer: 2600294259; title of beneficiary charity fund: Happy Child; bank of beneficiary: Raiffeisen Bank Aval, Zaporozhzhye Regional Branch SWIFT: AVALUAUKZAP; correspondent account of Raiffeisen Bank Aval: account 890-0260-688 with Bank of New York, SWIFT: IRVTUS3N.

— Translated by Natalia Guzenko; edited by Anne Linden.

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# NCUA



## Ukrainian pro sports update: basketball

by Ihor Stelmach

### Fesenko's fortune in Utah fold

Utah Jazz Senior Vice-President of Basketball Operations Kevin O'Connor announced on August 22, 2007, that the team had signed rookie center Kyrylo Fesenko to a multi-year contract. Terms of the rookie entry-level contract were not released, as per team policy.

The team acquired the draft rights to Fesenko (38th overall pick in the 2007 NBA draft) from the Philadelphia 76'ers in a draft night exchange for the draft rights to Herbert Hill (55th overall pick) and future trade considerations.

A native of Ukraine, Fesenko (6-foot-11, 240 pounds) appeared in all six games for the Jazz entry in the 2007 Rocky Mountain Revue, making three starts and averaging 4.8 points, 4.3 rebounds and 1.67 blocks in 16.3 minutes per game.

He averaged 6.7 points, 6.2 rebounds and 1.6 blocked shots in 18.5 minutes per game for Cherkaski Mavpy of the Ukrainian SuperLeague. Fesenko scored in double figures on seven occasions, netting a season high of 17 points. In six matches at the FIBA Euro Cup Challenge, Fesenko averaged 7.2 points, 8.0 rebounds and 2.0 blocks in 18.7 minutes

Also a member of the Ukrainian National Team, Fesenko averaged 6.8 points, 6.9 rebounds and 2.0 blocked shots at the 2005 Under-20 European Championships in Moscow. In 2004 he averaged 12.0 points, 6.6 rebounds and 2.6 blocks at the Under-18 European Championships in Zaragosa, Spain.

Following are scouting reports, overviews, comparisons, some inside scoops and an amusing anecdote about the young Ukrainian hoopster. Fesenko never enjoyed a whole lot of exposure playing in his homeland, but found himself at the top of most scouts' agendas prior to the 2007 NBA draft.

Starring for the Ukrainian National Under-20 team during the European Championship in 2005, Fesenko first drew the attention of NBA scouts. The defensive aspect of his game is far more advanced than his still-developing offensive side. A center the past several years while playing in Ukraine, his ultimate position in the NBA will probably be the "four" spot, with expectations that he will compete for time at power forward.

In 2003-2005 Fesenko played for Azovmash Mariupol in the Ukrainian SuperLeague, prior to joining SK Cherkasy for the 2006-2007 campaign. In Fesenko's final season with Azovmash Mariupol, the team finished first in Ukraine's second division with a 32-12 record. In five games for his team in the FIBA European League that year, though limited in playing time (8 minutes/per game), Fesenko flashed promise with 14 points, five rebounds and two blocks in 23 minutes against Besiktas, then went for 28 points in three games against Poland with the senior national team. He declared for the 2006 NBA draft, but later withdrew his name.

Scouting report positives: Fesenko has long arms and legs with a well-built frame that can easily carry at least another 20+ pounds with zero loss of speed... very agile for a player his size with good ball-handling skills... smooth interchange with guards on pick-and-roll plays... runs the floor well and provides strong physical presence underneath the basket... though only an average vertical leaper, uses his length and timing to go up and block shots... can't leap above the rim for a rebound, but knows how to position himself and use his long arms to snatch rebounds... tough to move when established

in the paint and uses his elbows and hands to push and shove his way around... showing a better understanding of post offense and is developing a touch six to eight feet from the hoop... shot very high 67.9 percent in the post-season (2006-2007), mostly on pick-and-pop plays or putbacks...no perimeter game and best when playing close to the basket... his running stride reflects very good coordination... solid second and third effort gets him rebounds... aggression noticeable in his game... has quickness to keep up with small forwards, but yet can bang with bigger guys... should learn a baby hook shot with his long wingspan...

Scouting report negatives: Fesenko has poor shooting mechanics, as most of his points come from right under the basket... must improve on his leaping ability and footwork when trying mid-range jump shots... free-throw shooting technique in need of major overhaul - 56.3 percent free throw shooting is poor, even for a big man... though aggressive, needs to learn to stay in front of his man better when defending on the perimeter... has experienced little coaching in Ukraine, so will require some time to develop and acclimate himself to different NBA game... carelessness with ball results in some turnovers... could use a bit more arc in his shot when facing the hoop... low-post game needs improvement... attacks rim somewhat slowly, needs to work on quicker first step and explosiveness.

Scouts comparisons: Fesenko is likened to: Nenad Krstic, New Jersey Nets. The Nets were rewarded for their patience with Krstic, permitting him to develop in Europe. If the same patience is afforded the young Fesenko, an NBA team could likewise be rewarded with an athletic power forward or back-up center. He is a big, mobile and aggressive player with nimble feet who needs strong coaching to discover and refine his additional hidden talents.

So, heading into the 2007 NBA draft, Fesenko was an intriguing European prospect. He is gifted with a remarkable physical/athletic profile. He's a legit big man with a nice wingspan, strong body and solid frame. He's also an athletic guy who uses his gifts with a notable level of activity. He's a high-energy player.

For the most part, his offensive production comes from dunks. He moves pretty well off the ball, hopes for low-post looks, tries to fill spaces and rolls after setting picks. If he gets it close enough to the basket, he'll attack the rim regardless of his opponent's positioning. If done correctly, this usually forces a foul. He is comfortable dunking one-handed, and it's easy for him to get up high for the dunk before the defense arrives.

Fesenko is a little obsessive about the dunk when he captures an offensive rebound, as he immediately tries to go back up and slam. He's a very solid rebounder, particularly on the offensive glass. He shows strong aggressiveness and an ability to avoid his opponent's box-out to gain good position. On the defensive end he's sometimes caught unfocused, not giving proper box-out effort. Yet all of the key ingredients plus solid hands are there to come away with the carom.

In defensive production he's again quite active, the type of defender who first looks for the block rather than to stop his opponent with his body. In defensive rotations he usually recognizes when and where to help a teammate. He does not seem willing to take a charge, preferring to go up and try to block the

shot. In most other situations he does not try to avoid physical contact. He enjoys lateral quickness, intimidates with his strength and provides much effort.

Though-lacking professional coaching, Fesenko does seem to enjoy a solid understanding of the game. In addition to Nenad Krstic of the Nets, international players like the Warriors' Andris Biedrins and Cleveland's Anderson Varejao come to mind when projecting Fesenko's promising NBA future.

#### A Fesenko funny

Back in 2006, when Fesenko originally declared for the NBA draft, only to withdraw later, the Detroit Pistons were one of the teams rumored to be interested in the Ukrainian hoopster. Also in the mix were the Milwaukee Bucks, who actually had the 19-year-old in for a workout. Apparently Fesenko was involved in a funny incident during his practice session with the Bucks. Here's how it went down, courtesy of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

Roughly mid-way through the 70-minute workout, Milwaukee Assistant Coach Brian James told the players he wanted them to "put the ball on the floor," meaning take a few dribbles before taking a shot at the basket. The young Fesenko was first up in this drill and he took the instruction quite literally. After catching a pass near the baseline, he proceeded to softly set the ball on the court and then walk away, looking a bit puzzled as to the purpose of said drill.

After a moment's pause to reflect on what had just happened, Head Coach

Terry Stotts, his assistants and the Bucks' director of player personnel, Dave Babcock, all broke up in laughter.

"Well, he's coachable," Assistant Coach James said as another assistant explained to Fesenko what the words actually meant. "He did exactly what I told him to do."

Fesenko did crack a brief smile, but didn't think it was all too amusing. "I just don't understand," he said in his broken English. "He told me to put it down. I don't know what it means."

The final drill of the workout was a two-on-two game of full-court.

When the coaches yelled that the next team to score would win, Fesenko, about to take the ball from out of bounds under the baseline, threw it off an opposing player's backside, hopped in bounds grabbing the ball and raced down to the other end for a dunk.

The other three players in the scrimmage watched in confusion. The coaches threw up their hands, had another laugh and counted the point as Fesenko walked back as if it were a normal play.

What an impression this young Ukrainian must have made, in more ways than one. In retrospect, it may have been very wise for Fesenko to postpone his NBA dream for one year. If nothing else, his command of basic English has to be better, no?

Coming up in future Pro Basketball Updates: Oleksiy Pecherov's wizards debut is delayed; Fesenko rides the D-League shuttle; Khryapa frustrated in Chicago; Szczerbiak a Sonic scorer off the bench.

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# Pysanka symposium slated for March 8-9 in Washington

WASHINGTON – The annual Pysanka Workshop sponsored by the Library of the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in Washington will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year by hosting a symposium featuring pysanka specialists from the United States and Canada.

The two-day event will be held at the Parish Center at 4250 Harewood Road NE in Washington (across the street from the Catholic University of America). A special exhibit is being prepared in conjunction with the symposium.

On Saturday, March 8, at noon to 5 p.m. the symposium will feature the following speakers.

• **Helen Badulak:** This pysanka artist based in Reading, Pa., entered her first egg show in 1973. In 1992 she was named Master of Pysanky by the International Egg Art Guild. In her long career, she has won numerous first-place ribbons and Best of Show awards for her

pysanky. Author of the widely acclaimed book "Pysanky in the 21st Century" (2004), Ms. Badulak will present an artist's perspective on pysanka-making on Saturday and conduct a Pysanka Master Class on Sunday, March 9, along with her daughter Nina Badulak-McDaniel, a pysanka artist in her own right.

• **Andrij Hornjatkevyc:** A linguist by profession, Dr. Hornjatkevyc worked for 30 years for the University of Alberta at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the department of modern languages and cultural studies. His interest in pysanky comes from his parents' collection, which he preserved and whose recording in electronic format by the Ukrainian Folklore Chairs at the University of Alberta he facilitated. His presentation will give an overview of this valuable collection and its unique journey from Ukraine to Canada.

• **Orysia Paszczak Tracz:** Based in

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ms. Tracz is a writer, researcher, lecturer and translator, specializing in things Ukrainian, especially ethnology. She is a columnist for The Ukrainian Weekly. Her interests include folklore, folk medicine, folk songs, traditions, rituals, symbolism and folk art – especially the origin, symbolism and traditions of the pysanka. Her presentation will focus on the pysanka as folk art in North America.

• **Lubow Wolynetz:** A librarian by profession, now a professor and museum curator of the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, Conn., Ms. Wolynetz is also curator of the folk art collection at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City. She will present a museum curator's perspective on the pysanka based on the annual pysanka exhibitions at The Ukrainian Museum, which she has curated for over 20 years.

The symposium will be moderated by

Andrew Sorokowski, Ph.D., a lawyer and historian specializing in Church history, as well as adjunct professor at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine. In addition to being a columnist for The Ukrainian Weekly, he contributes frequently to scholarly and popular periodicals on a wide variety of subjects.

The program on Sunday, March 9, will include a Pysanka Master Class with Ms. Badulak and Ms. Badulak-McDaniel at 1-3 p.m. (pre-registration required); the 25th annual Pysanka Workshop with Jurij Dobczansky at 2-5 p.m.; and the annual Easter Bazaar, featuring traditional Ukrainian foods and baked goods, Ukrainian arts, crafts and music, at noon-4 p.m.

To register readers may log on to [www.ucns-holyfamily.org/events.html](http://www.ucns-holyfamily.org/events.html) for printable registration forms and detailed information on enrollment and fees.

## Tymoshenko and Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 2)

Having the trio in high posts reassures the Party of the Regions that they have protection from the Tymoshenko government. Their appointments also conclude the deal cut between Mr. Yushchenko and the Party of the Regions to end the spring 2007 political crisis. The grand coalition between Mr. Yushchenko and the Party of the Regions that existed in early 2007 has de facto been recreated outside the Verkhovna Rada.

Mr. Medvedko became procurator general in November 2005 and has remained in that position except for a brief period in April 2007. That month he was replaced by

Sviatoslav Piskun, who had served as procurator general from December 2004 through October 2005, as well as earlier under President Leonid Kuchma in July 2002-October 2003.

Herein lies the dilemma. President Yushchenko claims to support a break with the Kuchma era and a battle against corruption, but his choice of procurator generals has been inconsistent with this statement. Maintaining Mr. Piskun in place for the first 10 months of his presidency reassured the Kuchma-era elites of their immunity from prosecution, which had been negotiated during the Orange Revolution's roundtables in late 2004.

The anti-Medvedko resolution is highly critical of his record as procurator general.

It calls for a vote of no confidence because of Mr. Medvedko's failure to resolve any of Ukraine's sensational crimes, such as the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze in 2000, Mr. Yushchenko's poisoning during the 2004 presidential election, and high-level involvement in election fraud that same year.

Under President Yushchenko, no procurator general has done much to advance the rule of law or to combat high-level corruption and abuse of office among Ukraine's elites. As Zerkalo Nedeli (December 15-21, 2007) wrote, "Fortunately, groundless political repressions are no longer an element of public policy. Unfortunately, deserved punishments are not, either."

Other parties have poor records as well. Two senior Socialists (former Internal Affairs Minister Vasyl Tsushko and former Transport Minister Mykola Rudkovskiy), from the previous government of Party of the Regions Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, are under investigation, but, based on past experience, they are unlikely to be prosecuted. As a recent report of the Atlantic Council of the United States pointed out, the Party of the Regions has never expressed much interest in battling corruption. Ukrainians give very low marks to the second Yanukovich government (2006-2007) for failing to battle corruption.

Although most political parties claim they are in favor of combating corruption, especially at election time, Ukrainians remain skeptical. The 2007 Transparency International survey found that the majority of Ukrainians believe that the judiciary is the most corrupt institution in Ukraine, followed by political parties, Parliament and the Internal Affairs Ministry. When asked if there would be a breakthrough in overcoming corruption over the next three years, 44 percent of Ukrainians said "no," while 38 percent said corruption would increase. Only 18 percent of Ukrainians believed that corruption would decline by the end of President Yushchenko's first term in office in 2010.

Some 70 percent of Ukrainians do not

believe that the authorities are effective in their struggle against corruption. Another 22 percent saw no results from the campaign, while only 8 percent believed any campaign was effective.

Ukrainians are particularly disappointed with the president who, they believe, has continued Mr. Kuchma's virtual campaign against corruption. The Atlantic Council wrote, "While there are many reasons for the persistence of corruption in Ukraine, polling suggests that public disappointment is particularly strong in the case of President Yushchenko, as many voters believe he is one of the few top politicians who is not tainted by corruption. Yet, Ukrainians believe he has done too little to fight it." Only 21 percent of Ukrainians believe the president has shown the political will to combat corruption.

Volodymyr Stretovych, OU-PSD national deputy and deputy head of the parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement, said, "He [Yushchenko] has outlined a campaign against corruption that he repeated many times. But without cardinal cadre changes in the procuracy, nothing will change. In the current situation the procuracy is corrupt from bottom to top, from the raion to the procurator general."

The Tymoshenko government is committed to battling corruption and reforming law enforcement, including in the procuracy. Ms. Tymoshenko has stated that she will not run in the 2009 presidential elections if her government's reforms and campaign against corruption are successful; she believes they were blocked by the president in 2005 during her first government.

President Yushchenko is caught between having to choose to protect the Party of the Regions and further inaction against elite abuse of office or supporting the government led by Prime Minister Tymoshenko. The two are in direct contradiction.

Sources: [acus.org](http://acus.org); [transparency.org](http://transparency.org); [president.gov.ua](http://president.gov.ua); [rada.kiev.ua](http://rada.kiev.ua); *Ukrayinska Pravda*, January 8-12; *Zerkalo Nedeli*, December 15-21, 2007.

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## Ukraine's top...

(Continued from page 3)

from its 2006 Riga summit onward, supporters of Membership Action Plans for Ukraine and Georgia have argued for a "package" solution to invite both countries to join MAPs at the Bucharest summit.

The letter and accompanying statements are replete with indirect references to the deficit of Ukrainian public support for NATO membership. Such support remains confined to some 20 percent of the overall

electorate (stronger in western Ukraine and weaker in eastern regions), according to public opinion surveys in the last few years. The support has actually declined to that level in the Orange Revolution's aftermath.

This situation explains not only the declared intent to launch more serious public information programs, but especially the reassurances that any decision on membership would ultimately be submitted to a referendum. Unsurprisingly, the presidency also envisages an escape clause whereby that referendum would be consultative.

## OUT AND ABOUT

- |                              |   |  |   |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Through March 8<br>Toronto   | Exhibit, "Transplanting Italy: The Story of Italian Migration to the Black Sea (1794-1894)," University of Toronto, 416-978-8669 or 416-978-6934  | February 2<br>Cordova, CA  | Malanka, Cordova Community Center, 916-482-4706 or<br>Ukrainianheritageclubofnc@yahoo.com                                       |
| Through March 11<br>Chicago  | Art exhibit featuring works by Jurij Solovij, "Things Greater Than Stars," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522                        | February 3<br>Scranton, PA   | Pre-Lenten Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner, the Blessed Virgin Mary Guild, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church hall, 570-347-5050 |
| February 1<br>New York       | Pre-Kalyna Night, "Lisovi Mavky" sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, The Ukrainian Museum, mavkamusenight@gmail.com                | February 9<br>New York   | Presentation by George Grabowicz, "Krytyka," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130  |
| February 1<br>Washington     | Monthly social, The Washington Group, Leopold's Café, 240-381-0993 or president@thewashingtongroup.org  | February 11<br>Washington  | Lecture by Alexander Motyl, "Systemic Transformations and the Drift Toward Fascism in Russia," Kennan Institute, 202-691-4100   |
| February 2<br>Parsippany, NJ | Debutante Ball, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Sheraton Parsippany Hotel, 973-515-2000   | <i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each. Please send e-mail to <a href="mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com">mdubas@ukrweekly.com</a>.</i> |   |
| February 2<br>Baltimore, MD  | Pub night, Ukrainian Sports Club Dnipro, 410-967-0501 or UkiSteve@aol.com   |  |   |
| February 2<br>Dedham, MA     | Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorovyia, Ukrainian American Cultural and Religious Center of New England, Moseley's on the Charles, 508-821-5423 |  |   |
| February 2<br>New York       | Lecture by Maria Rewakowicz, "New York on the Map of Ukrainian Poetry," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130                               |  |   |

### AN OPEN INVITATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists. You may reach The Weekly by phone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com); or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Friday, February 1**

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a literary evening to celebrate the presentation of Book of the Year award by BBC Ukraine Service to HURI's writer-in-residence, Volodymyr Dibrova. The author will be reading from his newly published book "Andriivskyi Uzviz" (Andrew's Way, the name of a historic street in Kyiv). The reading will be held in the Thompson Room (Room 110) of Barker Center at 5-7 p.m. The Barker Center is located at 12 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information contact HURI at 617-495-4053 or visit us on the web at <http://www.huri.harvard.edu/calendar.htm>.

**and Religious Center of New England** ([www.ukrainiancenter.org](http://www.ukrainiancenter.org)), will be held in the Boston suburbs at Moseley's on the Charles, 50 Bridge St., Dedham, MA, 02026, at 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Music will be by Na Zdorovya of Yonkers, N.Y. Tickets are \$45 when purchased in advance or \$50 at the door; \$20 for guests under age 16. For information and tickets contact Stephen Kostecki, 508-821-5423 or [skostec-ki108@comcast.net](mailto:skostec-ki108@comcast.net).

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) invites all to a lecture by Dr. Maria Rewakowicz (University of Washington) titled "New York on the Map of Ukrainian Poetry." Dr. Rewakowicz currently holds an NTSh post-doctoral fellowship. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

**Saturday, February 2**

**DEDHAM, Mass.:** A Malanka, or Ukrainian New Year's Eve dance, sponsored by the Ukrainian American Cultural

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### PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES:




Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com).

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